

Green Thumb News

January 2000



Making a Difference

Cover Story on page 11



News

from the Executive Director

Plants affect us in all aspects of daily living from food, clothes and shelter to music and medicine. Without plants, there would be no oxygen to breathe, nor for that matter, would we exist. The Gardens plans to make plant information more accessible and the first phase is now in place. A new information arbor familiarizes visitors with the layout of the Gardens and explains who we are and what we do.

In Tropical Botanica, you'll learn about the exotic world of tropical plants and how they impact us, such as their extraordinary range of medicinal products. As the interpretation program grows, each visit will become an opportunity to learn more about plants, their essential role in our lives and the need for conservation.

Integral to the Gardens is our outstanding library with books, videos and magazines on all aspects of gardening and botany for everyone; the Dr. Green program; and Planttalk Colorado's 24-hour, toll-free automated plant phone service. Our exceptional program of lectures and classes for adults and schools is second to none. Beyond that, you will see many changes to our Web site in the coming year, plus more guided tours.

Denver Botanic Gardens is working to be your one-stop source of plant information, especially plants for the Rocky Mountain region.

Brinsley Burbidge, Executive Director



The Wild Side

News from Chatfield

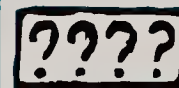
On a snowy winter morning you can avoid the hassle of mountain driving and still enjoy the beauty of Colorado's woodlands, meadows and a mountain background at Chatfield. Pack a thermos of hot chocolate or coffee and a snack, your camera, binoculars, cross-country skis or snow shoes. As a DBG member, your "ski pass" has already been paid.

Snow crystals glisten in the morning sun in sharp contrast to the dark branches of bare trees. Box elder trees, burlled by layers of scar tissue, with a tendency to rot and split, and swarming with box elder bugs, are not a favorite for urban landscapes, but are important in natural areas like the banks of Chatfield's Deer Creek. Raccoons, squirrels and birds seek out their cavities for nesting and food storage.

Winter is a great time to observe bird behavior without the interference of leaves. You'll see the interaction of predators and prey as ravens, magpies, crows, great horned owls, hawks and rodents coexist in their natural habitat.



Come to Chatfield this winter and see what you discover along the miles of trail. And don't forget to share your stories with others!



Plant Puzzler

Q: What extract from South American trees of the genera *Chondodendron* and *Strychnos* are used as a muscle relaxant but can also be deadly?

This month's Plant Puzzler was submitted by Ann Berthe, Plant Recorder, Research Department.

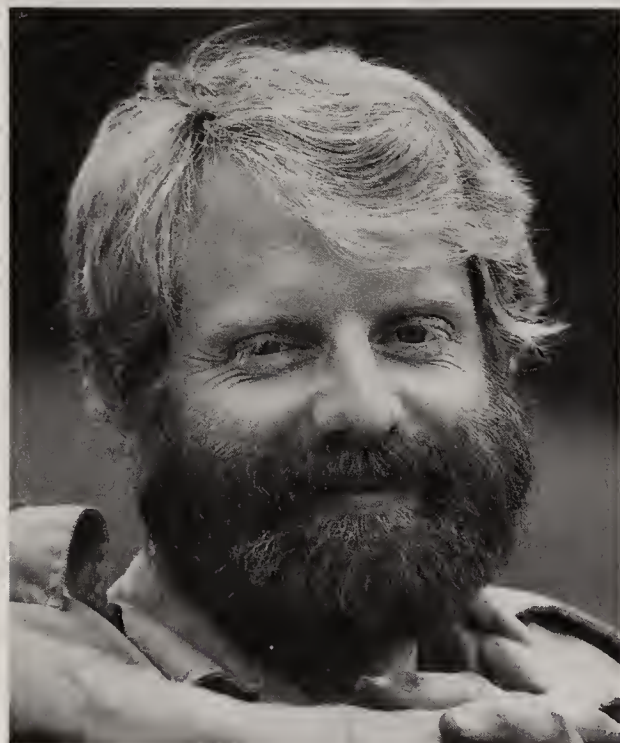
A: Commonly called moonseed, curare is not harmful if swallowed, but kills instantly if it enters the bloodstream. Some South American Indians use it as an arrow poison. There is no antidote.



Employee of the Month

The December Employee of the Month is Jo Estill, Information Desk Supervisor. Jo temporarily filled the vacated position of Executive Secretary — an extremely challenging role — with a great attitude. Her enthusiasm and willingness to take on any task exemplifies her spirit of teamwork and commitment to the Gardens.

Fitting in Naturally, a Horticulture magazine symposium



Denver Botanic Gardens is pleased to present "Fitting in Naturally — Garden Designing with a Sense of Place," co-hosted with *Horticulture* magazine on Monday, February 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. Unlike past years, this symposium will be a one-day event.

Whether their landscape is a rocky outcrop, a hillside bright with spring blooms or an aspen grove against forest-green conifers, gardeners often search for ways to make their own gardens reflect the larger landscape. In order to do this, gardeners first select appropriate materials for paths, walls and buildings. They then choose native plants or others that suit the local growing conditions. The end results are gardens across the country that resonate with the larger landscapes.

This program brings together nationally respected speakers who combine their fascination with plants with a strong commitment to making beautiful gardens that work "in context" with the region's landscape.

Neil Diboll explores plants that capture a sense of scale and movement. He illustrates how prairie flowers and native grasses work to connect smaller, more urban gardens to the history of the prairies. Lauren Springer shares her experiences in making a regionally evocative garden through discussing conceptual approaches and practical ideas. C. Colston Burrell demonstrates that by grouping plants of similar requirements in the appropriate site conditions, thus taking advantage of micro-climates, one's garden design can blend into an ecologically integrated whole. Plantsman Daniel Hinkley shows how he creates pictures using layers of trees, shrubs, ground covers and vines. Hinkley uses woodland images from around the world, but many of his gardens in the dry shade under conifers, echo scenes in Colorado.

This year, registration will be through *Horticulture* magazine at 1-800-395-1901 or fax 1-617-367-6364 (indicate your choice of regular or vegetarian lunch with your registration). The cost is \$95 for DBG members, \$99 for *Horticulture* magazine subscribers and \$109 for non-members. For more information, please call the Gardens' registration office at 303-370-8020 or 303-370-8019. You'll receive a mailing from *Horticulture* in early January about this exciting program.



Volunteer open house

New year's resolutions! But this January, it's not only a new year, it's a new century, a new millennium, a new you! Wouldn't you love to be part of the team that makes Denver Botanic Gardens the outstanding institution it is? The Gardens is hosting a Volunteer Open House on Thursday, January 27 in Mitchell Hall to present the many ways you may give of yourself to something that is meaningful to you. Staff members from the various departments and current volunteers will be available to answer any questions you may have. There's a great variety of ways you can help, including special events, outdoor work, office work, the library and gift shop.

Please drop by any time between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. to get acquainted, gather information and enjoy refreshments. For more information, call Volunteer Coordinator, Joedy Arnold, at 303-370-8049.

Begonia bounty

Mention the word begonia, and most gardeners will have experienced growing or admiring some form of this large group of plants. The genus *Begonia* is vast, comprising thousands of hybrids and varieties in addition to nearly 1,000 natural species. An important and rich source of ornamental plants, representatives are widely distributed throughout the tropics and subtropics, primarily in the Americas. However, *Begonia* is absent from the native flora of the islands of the Pacific Ocean and Australia. Denver Botanic Gardens' Tropical Botanica exhibit features an array of these intriguing, beautiful plants that have become so prized for their delicate flowers and spectacular foliage.

Among the many begonias you will encounter is *Begonia goegoensis*, from Sumatra. Nearly circular leaves are a lustrous olive-green on top with red undersides and prominent veination that highlights the puckered surface. *Begonia coccinea*, *B. listida* and *B. metallica* are all natives of Brazil. *B. coccinea* has given rise to numerous hybrids and is one of the commonly called angel-wing begonias, familiar as house plants to many. *B. metallica* rises to a bushy height of nearly four feet with richly textured and embossed leaves. The deep red color of the undersides of its leaves and the prominent veins are vegetative traits that appear with diversity in nearly all begonias.

In addition to these natural species, the understory of Tropical Botanica includes a wealth of hybrid varieties that display a tremendous range of leaf shape, variegation, texture and height. Close to the entrance, *B. 'Joe Hayden'* appears, with



Photo: Gary Davis

Begonia 'Silver Star' displays stunning metallic variegation and exotic leaf form.

nearly black leaves that shimmer with luminous iridescence. The leathery-textured leaves of *B. 'Pigskin'* grow close to the path, while nearby, *B. 'Pink Spot Lucerne'* towers to four feet. Further investigation reveals a multitude of begonias, clearly related, but fascinating with subtle multiformities that lend individuality to each. Explore Tropical Botanica this winter and see how many of these exotic beauties you find.



Begonia aconitifolia. Illustration by Jayme Irvin.

Plant Profile

Begonia aconitifolia

Brazil is home to many species of begonias, including *Begonia aconitifolia*. This handsome plant is easily admired in Tropical Botanica; it grows close to the path at the first bridge and demands attention with its size and beauty. Tall stems that climb four feet support deeply-lobed leaves with silvery blotches scattered across the surface. As is true of nearly all begonias, the underside of the leaf is equally as interesting as the top. The framework of veins, thick and ridged, define the beautiful architecture of the foliage.

Pendulous sprays of flowers appear regularly throughout the year and feature both male and female flowers, a trait common to most begonias. The female flowers are easily identified by the winged ovary positioned behind the petals. The two-inch-wide male flowers are pinkish in bud, then white.

Containing the senses

Photo: Janet Laminack



Colorful, fragrant and touchable plants fill a container in the Sensory Garden.

Where will you find containers bursting with fragrant leaves, vivid colors, whispering grasses, touchable, even edible plants? Denver Botanic Gardens' Sensory Garden, located across York Street from the main campus, displays plants that stimulate the senses, and demonstrates small-space and accessible gardening techniques. Every spring new combinations of plants awaken the sensory experience. Containers of clay pots, flue tiles or hanging baskets become "theme" gardens within a garden. This may be the best-kept-secret garden in the city.

The Sensory Garden is the focus of tours and a resource for horticultural therapy (HT) students, with plantings customized for these groups. To be most effective, the groupings of plants should include characteristics that appeal to every sense. This past summer, containers at the entrance caught the eye with the complimentary colors of yellow and purple. The sensory experience continued

with the soft velvety touch of *Helichrysum* 'Limelight' and the delicious aroma of the basil cultivar, *Oximum* 'Red Rubin'. HT students used this planting as inspiration for engaging activities for participants in their therapy groups. Not only bold and beautiful, calendula petals are used to make body-care lotions or even to garnish salads. The iridescent blue *Verbena* 'Imagination', pressed and preserved, is a welcomed memento of the garden throughout winter. The fragrant *Petunia* 'Blue Dreams Midnight' brings a gentle reminder of gardens past for seniors in HT programs, stimulating recollection and conversation.

Vertical shelves form flowering walls in the center of the garden, and give visitors the opportunity to discover what can be grown in smaller containers. Anything is possible, from climbing vines and trailing flowers, to vegetables and herbs, with sensory appeal being the main criteria. The north-facing wall showcases cool, white colors, utilizing heavy bloomers such as cascading petunias and sweet-smelling alyssum. Silvery dusty miller adds a skeletal backdrop, while feverfew, an herbal remedy for migraines, is often a conversational stop for tours. The south wall contrasts with blazing reds that glow in the sun of summer. Classic red geraniums fill clay pots, and brilliant cockscomb is always popular with children. Bell peppers and chiles, as well as rustling purple fountain grass, continue the theme. An inviting strawberry can be found occasionally by a lucky visitor.

Experience this appealing garden and discover a dimension of horticulture beyond visual beauty. Who knows, you could be lucky and find that delicious strawberry.

Janet Laminack, Horticultural Therapy Specialist



Deadly mushroom found in Colorado

Denver Botanic Gardens' mycologist Vera Evenson explores local areas in search of mushroom specimens not yet documented. Evenson and volunteer Rosa-Lee Brace discovered *Amanita bisporigera* while investigating south of Castle Rock in Douglas County. This is the first documentation of a member of the *Amanita* group containing amanitoxins found growing in Colorado. The mushroom, known as the Destroying Angel, and its close relatives are responsible for over 90 percent of deaths by mushroom poisoning in the world.

Amanita bisporigera, a white, innocent-looking mushroom with a long stem, was found growing among Gambel oak trees. Three specimens of the Destroying Angel are now preserved at the Gardens' Herbarium of Fungi, which houses over 20,000 various specimens from the region. Additional research in Gambel oak habitats is planned to learn more about the rare *Amanita bisporigera*.

January

Blossoms of Light, January 1 and 2

Brighten your life with Blossoms of Light as you greet the 21st century at the Gardens. The last two nights are Saturday and Sunday.

The Gardens of China, January 10

Art historian, author and photographer, Joan Cohen, will give a slide presentation featuring the symbolic elements of Chinese gardens, including several of the Imperial gardens in Beijing and Suzhou. The program is Monday, January 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the Waring House and the cost is \$5 per person. To RSVP, call Pam Rathke at 303-370-8051.

Shade Gardening, January 12

Stephanie Cohen, nationally-known perennial expert, will present "Shade Gardening: A Walk on the Dark Side" in Mitchell Hall, Wednesday, January 12 at 7 p.m. A member of Garden Writers of America and Adjunct Professor, Temple University, Cohen is a frequent contributor to *Country Living Gardener* and *Fine Gardening* magazines. She specializes in giving unique garden lectures that combine her expertise in plant knowledge, colorful slides and her garden philosophy — presented with a touch of humor and guaranteed to keep an audience interested and entertained. The cost of the lecture is \$10 for DBG members, plant society members or master gardeners; \$15 for people not associated with these groups. Please make reservations by January 7 by calling the Colorado Greenhouse Growers Association, 303-427-8132. Admission at the door will be \$15 for both members and nonmembers.

New Members Party, January 19

New members are invited to experience a taste of paradise in the Tropical Botanica exhibit on Wednesday, January 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Volunteer guides will lead tours of this exotic, tropical environment and refreshments will be served. Please call for reservations by January 14, 303-370-8018.

Volunteer Open House, January 27

There are many opportunities to volunteer your time at the Gardens in a meaningful and enjoyable way. Current volunteers and staff will answer your questions at an open house on Thursday, January 27 so please drop by Mitchell Hall anytime between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Call Joedy Arnold for more information at 303-370-8049.

KEY FOR CALENDAR

Bold teal type = Gardens events


(V) = Volunteers are needed.

Call 303.370.8049.

Bold black type = Plant Society events

Regular black type = Classes

(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Arboretum

 = Free to members

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

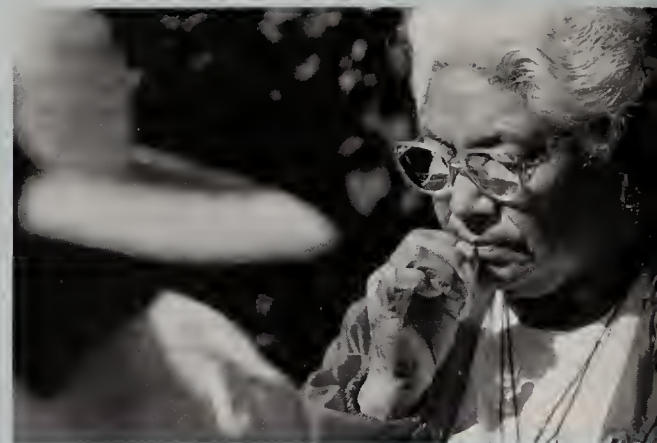
Gardens events 303.370.8187

Plant Society events 303.370.8097

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY



2

Last night of Blossoms of Light
Anoush Armenian Dancers

3

Beginning Botanical Illustration
in Pencil*
Composition for Botanical Illustration*

4

Bonsai Society meeting
Beginning Botanical Illustration
in Pencil*

9

10

The Gardens of China

11

Cactus Society meeting

16

Mile High Daylily Society meeting

17

Free Day at York Street

18

Bonsai Society meeting



23

24

Ultra Violet Society meeting
Beginning Botany for the
Botanical Illustrator*

25

Making and Using Your Own
Home Herbal Medicine Ch

30

Tropical Botany*

31

Landscape Design Theory*

June

- 2 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 4 Colorado Water Garden Society Plant Sale
- 5 Free Day at York Street
- 6 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 7 Senior Early Morning Stroll — *For Members Only*
- 7-18 Travel Adventure: The Impressionist Road For Hikers
- 11 Denver Rose Society Old Garden Roses Display
- 13 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 15 BirdHaus Bash Garden Party and Auction
- 17,18 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Show and Sale
- 20 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 27 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 28 New Members Party — *For Members Only*
- 28-9 Colorado Watercolor Society Show and Sale
- 30-9 Travel Adventure: The Amazon



2000 Calendar

January



- 1 York Street Gardens closed 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(open for "Blossoms" 6 to 9 p.m.)
- 2 Last night of Blossoms of Light
- 7 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 10 Chinese Gardens: Strange Rocks and Curious Plants
(Slide show and lecture)
- 12 Shade Gardening: A Walk on the Dark
- 17 Free Day at York Street
- 19 New Members Party — *For Members Only*
- 27 Volunteer Open House

February

- 1 *Horticulture Magazine* Symposium
- 4 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 23 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture

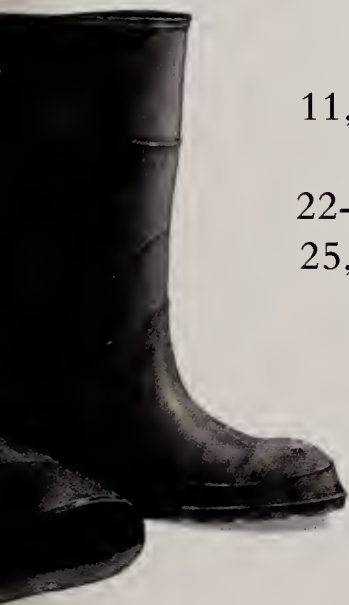
of Events



retum
Pools

March

- 1-11 Travel Adventure: Hawaii, A Three-Island Odyssey
- 3 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 9 Growing 101 Herbs That Heal: Lecture on Medicinal Herbs
- 11,12 Denver Orchid Society Spring Show and Sale
- 22 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture
- 22-27 Travel Adventure: Charleston, Beaufort and Savannah
- 25,26 Rocky Mountain African Violet Council Spring Show and Sale



eld Arboretum • 303.973.3705 • 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road • Littleton, CO 80128



April

- 1,2 Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society Show at
- 3 Free Day at York Street
- 7 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 8 Denver Rose Society: Rose Symposium
- 13 Behind-the-Scenes Tour — *Landscaper and Gardener*
- 22 Rocky Mountain Chapter, American Rock Garden Society
Alpine Plant Sale
- 26 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture

May

- 1 Free Day at York Street
- 5 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 11 York Street Gardens Closed
- 12,13 Denver Botanic Gardens' 51st Annual Plant and Book Sale
- 14 American Iris Society Show (*dwarf and medians*)
- 24 American Heart Association: Keeping Woman Young at Heart
- 24-2 Travel Adventure: The Impressionist Road For Artists
with Rob Proctor and Susan Fisher
- 27,28 American Iris Society Show






1
York Street Gardens and Chatfield
closed 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
York Street Gardens open from
6 to 9 p.m. for Blossoms of Light
Stylistic Swing

5

6
Botanical Pen and Ink for Reproduction*

7
Free Day and 11 a.m. Tour
Chatfield Arboretum



8
Rocky Mountain Orchid
Judging Center
Gloxinia, Gesneriad Growers mtg.

12
Shade Gardening: A Walk on the
Dark Side*

13

14

15
High Country Judges
Rocky Mountain African Violet
Council meeting

19
New Members Party
North American Rock Garden
Society meeting
Herb Society of America meeting

20

21

22
Designing Your Garden I:
Structural Elements*
Organic Gardening Principles*
The Perennial Border:
Design and Planting*

26
Garden Structure and Hardscape:
Design, Layout and Detail*
Simple Soaps*

27
Gardeners of America meeting
African Violet Society meeting
Volunteer Open House

28

29
Bonsai Society workshop
Herbal Weight Loss*

**DBG TRAVEL
ADVENTURES**



Photo: Jim Havey

**The Impressionist Road for Artists — Paris, Giverny and Provence
May 24 to June 2, 2000**

Join artists Rob Proctor, Denver Botanic Gardens' Director of Horticulture, and Susan Fisher, a renowned botanical illustrator, for this unique tour of France. Designed for botanical artists, this tour allows participants to paint, draw or sketch their way through the incredible gardens and countryside made famous by impressionist painters such as Monet, Cezanne and Van Gogh. The tour begins with two days in Paris to tour the Musée d'Orsay and Parisian gardens before departing for Giverny and Monet's Garden. The remainder of the tour will be spent in Provence recreating great impressionist works in the countryside and villages of this inspirational area of France. Most mornings will be dedicated to painting and participants are free to explore gardens, vineyards, ruins and cathedrals. The price for the tour is \$3,495 per person and includes: lodging, most meals, motorcoach transportation, train to Provence, entry fees and guiding services. A \$400 deposit is required now with final payment due February 25.

This trip is rated "easy." Walking tours of short duration and distance can be expected.

**The Impressionist Road for Hikers — Paris, Giverny and Provence
June 7 to 18, 2000**

The Impressionist Road for Hikers has been developed for the adventurer. Participants will spend eight days in Provence exploring the old haunts of the impressionists by hiking through small towns, vineyards, forests and hillsides. Admire the village settings and countryside near St. Remy that inspired Van Gogh. Other days will include journeys to Arles, Les Baux, Gordes and Aix-en-Provence. Gardens, ruins, cathedrals, chateaux and castles will be visited. Two days will also be spent in Paris to tour the Musée d'Orsay, Parisian gardens and Monet's Garden in Giverny. The price of this tour is \$2,995 per person and includes: lodging, most meals, motorcoach transportation, train to Provence, entry fees and guiding services. A \$400 deposit is due now with final payment due March 3.

This trip is rated "moderate." Hikes range from four to six miles per day and can be hilly. More miles per day are available.

New members party

New members are invited to an open house of the Tropical Botanica display on January 19, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be available and guides will be on hand to point out the various areas of the display and highlights of special plants in this tropical paradise. The growth of plantings made just one year ago for the reopening of the redesigned conservatory has been astounding, and you will truly feel you are in a tropical rain forest. Reservations may be made by calling 303-370-8018 by January 14.

We couldn't do it without you!

Heartfelt thanks to all the many volunteers who helped make the membership programs so successful in 1999. Volunteers who worked the Members' Picnic, New Member Parties, Behind-the-Scenes Tours, Members' Dividend Day, Goblins in the Gardens and Herald the Season — are all essential to growing a strong Botanic Gardens family of supporters, and from their comments, they had fun doing it! To all who faithfully helped on the Information Desk throughout the year, as well as selling memberships outside during special events (sometimes in the heat and during sudden bursts of wind or rain), you are Denver Botanic Gardens' front line of support and helped increase memberships to a record high of over 16,000! Thank you all!

**To become a part of the
Denver Botanic Gardens
volunteer team,
call 303-370-8049.**

Photo: Jim Havey



Thanks BOL sponsors

Thank you to our 1999 Blossoms of Light corporate sponsors. With their help, we were able to “brighten” your holidays and transform the Gardens into a sparkling winter-wonderland. Our Presenting Sponsor of Blossoms of Light: Public Service Company of Colorado. Associate Sponsors: Wells Fargo, Loews Giorgio Hotel, The Denver Post and SCFD. Also supported by RSC, Inc. Presenting Sponsor of Teddy Bear Teas: Robinson Dairy, Inc.

Planned giving

Please consider a gift that will help the Gardens grow season after season. To become a Perennial Friend, simply include Denver Botanic Gardens in your estate plans. For information on ways you can select to support the Gardens beyond your lifetime, please return the form below.

- ☐ Please provide me with information about including Denver Botanic Gardens in my will.
- ☐ Please send me information on charitable gift plans that provide me with income.
- ☐ I have already remembered Denver Botanic Gardens in my estate plans and would appreciate information on Perennial Friends.

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone		

Mail to: Carmen Neu, Manager of Planned Giving, Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York Street, Denver, CO 80206. If you would like to talk to Carmen directly, call her at 303-370-8077.

Memorials and Tributes

In memory of Mary Beth Stjernholm

Ms. Janet Boone

In memory of Akiye Nakamura

Ms. Teresa Lawser

Mr. Geoff Hien

Ms. Linda Suter-Gibson

Mr. Michael Cooke

Ms. Marilyn Davis

In memory of David Drage

Mr. and Mrs. John Kiliany

Mr. and Mrs. J. Evans Alloway

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Pogliano

Ms. Inge Fleming

Mr. and Mrs. John Spellman

Ms. Jeanelle Robinson

In memory of Mary Ellen Owen

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates

In memory of Mrs. George Robinson

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates

In memory of Mary Belle Grant

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates

In memory of Venna A. Wamsley

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Hurlbut

In memory of Margaret Bates Ellison

Mr. Charles Cadwallader

In memory of Herbert Jones

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Larson

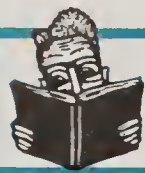
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Collister

In memory of Frederick N. Zeiner

Mr. and Mrs. William B. Collister

Major gift thank you

Denver Botanic Gardens wishes to express sincere appreciation to the John G. Duncan Charitable Trust and the Edward Madigan Foundation for their generous gifts. The Duncan Charitable Trust provided the funds to print special children’s maps for our newly-renovated conservatory. The “Tropical Discovery” maps entice children through our Tropical Botanica exhibit and teach them how to survive “being stranded on a deserted island.” Turning to the Research department, the Madigan Foundation funded a digital imaging system for our two herbariums. The new equipment allows us to put images of our mycological and vascular plant collections into a visual database and eventually on to our Web site. We greatly appreciate both gifts for the impact they will make on our young visitors and our inquisitive public.



The Garden Plot

From the DBG Library

Green Leaves Can Brighten Your Day

It's January. What's interesting at the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center this time of year? Look for Italian arum (*Arum italicum*) by the entrance gate. It has beautiful, green leaves now! They are arrow-shaped and can be mottled with white, silver and purple. These wonderful leaves come up in late autumn or early winter and continue growing through the spring. The spring blossom is similar to those of jack-in-the-pulpit or calla lily. The blossom is followed by a stalk with bright orange-red berries that persist throughout the summer. The absolute best part of the plant, however, is those beautiful leaves. A trip to the Morrison Center will demonstrate how their dark green and silver appearance can brighten up a dreary January day.

Look and admire, but don't try to make a salad out of Italian arum. All parts of the plant are poisonous. If eaten, chemicals in the plant will cause lips, mouth, tongue and pharynx to swell. Other arums are used medicinally, including one used as a remedy for venomous snake and scorpion bites. Still other arum leaves and tubers are used as food, but they are treated in various ways to remove the poisons before consumption.

Italian arum is native to southern and western Europe, extending from southern England to the Canary Islands all the way east to the island of Cyprus. It has naturalized into other parts of England along the hedgerows and disturbed roadsides. Be sure to visit this unusual plant as it peeks through the January snow.

Books in the Helen Fowler Library used for this article:

Bown, Deni. *Aroids: Plants of the Arum Family*. Portland, Ore.: Timber Press, 1988.
QK 495 .A685 B6 1988
Boyce, Peter. *The Genus Arum*. London: HSMO, 1993 QK 495 .A685 B68 1993
Lampe, Kenneth F. *AMA Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants*. Chicago, Ill.: American Medical Association, 1985. RA 1250 L2 1985 Ref.

Sensory Garden renovation

Thanks to the Mabel Hughes Foundation's generous grant of \$15,000, the Denver Botanic Garden's Sensory Garden will have a fresh look, smell, feel and sound this spring. The Sensory Garden is located across York Street from the main campus of DBG at the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center. Created in 1983, the Morrison Center was designed to house the horticultural therapy program, while the garden demonstrates small-space and accessible gardening techniques as well as showcasing sensory plants. Used as a model for sensory gardens throughout the world, the garden has needed an updated look to reclaim its innovative edge. The garden is used for interactive sensory tours for persons with special needs and Sprouts tours for young children. Thank you Mabel Hughes Foundation for providing many more years of garden experiences for these groups.

Angela Overy receives Garden Club award

Congratulations to Angela W. I. Overy, recipient of the Garden Club of America's 1999 Eloise Payne Luquer Medal for special achievement in the field of botany. An author, illustrator, photographer and speaker, Ms. Overy's achievements are many. She coordinates the Denver Botanic Gardens School of Botanical Illustration and instructs many of its classes. Additionally, Ms. Overy coordinated publication of the *Xeriscape Plant Guide*, a much-needed and well-loved guide to garden-worthy, drought-tolerant plants, and authored *The Foliage Garden: Creating Beauty Beyond Bloom* and *Sex in Your Garden*. An active member of the Denver Botanic Gardens and the Garden Club of Denver, Overy really grows plants as well as writing about them. The recent Eloise Payne Luquer Medal merely confirms what the Gardens has long known, that this is a woman of extraordinary talents.



Spring of 2000 will bring a new look to the Sensory Garden at the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center.

Cover Story: *Making a Difference*

Photo: Jim Havey



In the Sensory Garden, plants often touch people in life-changing ways.

Beth Morse, a member of Denver Botanic Gardens, recently called regarding the horticultural therapy program and said, "I want to do something that will make a difference with people." She was considering how she could use plant-related programs to make a positive influence in the lives of others. The Center for Horticultural Therapy Studies certificate program receives many such inquiries. Potential students may be changing careers, augmenting their current career or just searching for something more meaningful. They are committed, caring people who want to change the way society treats persons who are aging, ill or disabled.

Horticultural therapy is not a quick fix. It is a rehabilitative practice that uses gardening activities to improve mental and physical health. Gardeners know that turning soil, planting seeds and nurturing growth improves their own mental health. But they may not realize that following the plan of a trained horticultural therapist, people recovering from illnesses can benefit from these same activities.

The Gardens' one-of-a-kind HT program is reaching people from all over the country. The comprehensive certificate encourages the use of horticulture in health care and human services. The program begins with Introduction to

Horticultural Therapy in the fall. Students from as far away as Japan share their passion for joining people and plants in life-changing ways.

While each series of students has its own dynamic, they all build a strong connection during the intensive, four-day introduction class and friendships last long after the program is completed. Students appreciate the overview this first class offers of such a varied field. The introduction class exposes students to the purpose and application of HT as well as the diverse types of facilities that practice it.

After completing the introduction class, students can look forward to four more courses exploring horticultural therapy techniques, programming, resources and development, with guest instructors from throughout North America.

The Center for Horticultural Therapy Studies has a great deal to offer students and helps channel their desire to make a difference in the lives of others into a positive career in horticultural therapy.

Introduction to Horticultural Therapy, is the entry-point for the entire certificate program and a prerequisite for all other courses. The next class is September 7-10, 2000 and enrollment is accepted between March 1 and August 1. The class fills very quickly. For registration call 303-370-8020 or for more information call Christine Kramer at 303-370-8190 or e-mail at Kramerc@botanicgardens.org.

*Christine Kramer,
Horticultural Therapy Assistant*

We are pleased to announce...

The American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA) has relocated its national office from Maryland to the Denver Botanic Gardens. Founded in 1973, AHTA is the professional association for horticultural therapists. Horticultural therapy (HT) is a complementary therapy in which plants and gardening activities are used in professionally conducted therapeutic and rehabilitative programs. Settings include hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools and prisons. AHTA has

approximately 800 members and a dozen chapters throughout the United States. For information, please call 303 331-3862.

The formation of AHTA's newest chapter, the Mountain & Plains Chapter, began in the fall of 1999. This professional organization, full of enthusiastic individuals making an impact in HT, supports HT in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Utah and New Mexico. Plans include newsletters, educational meetings and annual conferences. Membership is inclusive to anyone interested. For information, contact Janet Laminack, HTR, at laminacj@botanicgardens.org or call 303-370-8098.

Denver Botanic Gardens
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Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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DON'T MISS...



Promise yourself to start the new year with a sense of balance and well-being. The Gift Shop has a new line of personal care products by Fruits & Passion to make that resolution a reality. Come see the assortment of shower gels, foam bath, glycerin soap and sea salts in the irresistible fragrances of Orange-Cantaloup, Dewberry-Blackcurrant and Fieldberries.

Green Thumb News

www.botanicgardens.org

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909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
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Designer: Julie Rudofsky

Hours

Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
with extended hours May-September

General information **303-331-4000**

TDD 303-370-8032

Dr. Green plant information 303-370-8068

Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Planttalk (24-hour) 1-888-666-3063

recorded plant information

Gift Shop 303-331-4009

Helen Fowler Library 303-370-8014

Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address changes 303-370-8060

Class registration 303-370-8020

Facility rental 303-370-8012

Green Thumb News 303-370-8033

Guided tours 303-370-8019

Job Hotline 303-370-8000

Membership services 303-370-8029

Security, emergencies 303-370-8017

Special events information 303-370-8187

Development 303-370-8055

Volunteering 303-370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum **303-973-3705**

Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

On the cover: Horticultural Therapy, Jim Havey

Green Thumb News

February 2000



Going Bananas

Cover Story on page 4



News

from the Executive Director

I've now been at Denver Botanic Gardens for one whole year and it's been a very exciting time, getting to know a new community and becoming familiar with a new team of staff, volunteers and board. It has been a time of building relationships that are vital for the success of the Gardens and our future. Let me focus on one key relationship which can make or break an institution such as ours: that of the Board President and the Director.

I was fortunate to join the staff when Cal Cleworth held the Board President position. He helped me become familiar with the Denver community, introduced me to innumerable individuals who are part of the Gardens' life and many of whom have become personal friends. He was wise counsel as we began to formulate a new way of doing things at the Gardens. The result was a new strategic plan, providing a roadmap for our future which we are now beginning to implement. He was the ideal president for the time and I'm very grateful for his support.

Cal retired as President at the end of last year and it is a great pleasure to welcome Bruce Alexander as our incoming Board President. Bruce, a Denver man and a Colorado native, brings truly remarkable qualities to the position. He was Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Denver from 1992 to 1995 and concurrently was Manager of Parks and Recreation. He was President of the First National Bancorporation from 1969 to 1978, later becoming President and subsequently, Vice Chairman of the Board of The First National Bank of Denver. What makes Bruce unique as our Board President is that he once sat in my chair and knows what it is like to do my job because he was Interim Director of Denver Botanic Gardens from 1990 to 1991. Bruce and I speak the same language and have a shared passion for the future of the Gardens, as well as a strong commitment to an exciting future for Chatfield. I know we will work well together.

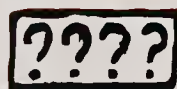
I look forward to working with Bruce and the other new Board members, Cile Chavez, Stephen Christopher, Robert Hampton, Thomas Kelly, Arnold Roane and Beatrice Thurston, as we face the new millennium with aspirations to be a world-class garden in this world-class city.

*Brinsley Burbidge,
Executive Director*



Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Lisa Castle, Youth Programs Assistant and the January employee of the month. Lisa's world is populated by multitudes of young people who experience the Gardens in a meaningful way through her leadership. Lisa is an innovative educator who always goes beyond the call of duty and her enthusiasm is contagious.



Plant Puzzler

Q: What geographical area is known as the "Lungs of our Planet"?

*This month's Plant Puzzler was submitted by
Mary Adams, Director of Marketing.*

A: The Amazon Rain Forest continuously recycles carbon dioxide, producing over 20 percent of the earth's oxygen.



The Wild Side

News from Chatfield



Lifelong learning is essential to all who want to stay active and alert. Chatfield is a great place to exercise that excitement for discovering outdoor marvels, researching to find out more about them, and sharing your fascination with others.

We invite each of you who has a passion for nature to become a Volunteer Naturalist Guide at Chatfield Arboretum. Your help will make it possible to offer educational and interpretive programs, tours, camps, displays and assistance on the trails or in the visitor center. It is this kind of educational opportunity that leads to appreciation, protection and ethical use of our beautiful natural resources like Chatfield.

A series of ten naturalist guide training classes will be offered, starting March 2, to cover outdoor teaching techniques, history, wildlife, plant life and ecology. You will develop your expertise in skills you already have and learn more about the cultural and natural history of the Chatfield site. Volunteers who complete the training will commit to join our experienced guides in offering valuable leadership and assistance to school children and visitors of all ages, including those with special needs.

Please contact Jackie Sanderson at 303-973-3705 for more information on how you can become a Volunteer Naturalist Guide at Denver Botanic Gardens' Chatfield site.

Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series

"Queen of Deadheading" speaks on keeping perennials pretty



The Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series resumes Wednesday, February 23, with "The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: The Facts on Plant Maintenance" presented by Tracy DiSabato-Aust. She is a nationally recognized horticulturist and award-winning designer and has been working in the industry for more than 20 years. She has worked, studied and taught at gardens in Belgium, England, Canada and the United States, and is the owner of Horticultural Classics and Consultations, a garden design, installation and maintenance company. Her articles have been featured in national magazines such as *Fine Gardening*, *Country Homes* and *American Nurseryman*, and she comes highly recommended by local designers Rob Proctor and Lauren Springer.

If you have ever wondered about cutting back your campanula, deadheading your dianthus or chopping your daylilies

to the ground after blooming, then attend this lecture which will instruct you on the proper practices of deadheading, pinching, cutting back, thinning, disbudding and de-leafing in your garden. The difference between a garden that looks its best for a few brief days and one that delights the eyes for weeks and months is often just a matter of judicious care.

Based on DiSabato-Aust's recent book, *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques*, which has become the all-time best seller for Timber Press in only 18 months, the lecture will be an informative and entertaining discussion on maintaining a perennial garden for both beginning and experienced gardeners. Techniques from staking and division to pest control and fertilizing will be presented. Innovative information on the proper pruning of perennials for season-long interest will also be featured.

Join DiSabato-Aust as she shares tips in a clear, straightforward, user-friendly manner that will enlighten all gardeners. The Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series is named in honor of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, whose generous support makes it possible to bring renowned speakers to the Gardens. Lectures are held in Mitchell Hall and start promptly at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Cost is \$8 for members and \$12 for nonmembers.

The Bonfils-Stanton Foundation has changed its grant-funding dates, which impacts the scheduling of lectures at the Gardens. The lecture series calendar will be published as soon as information is received from the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation.

Botanical Illustration show postponed

Denver Botanic Gardens has hosted the popular Botanical Illustration Show for the past three years during the month of February. Unfortunately, this year's scheduled dates conflicted with another show being held at Longwood Gardens and it was not possible to recruit the necessary number of judges with international credentials. This year's Botanical Illustration Show has been rescheduled for February 2001 and promises to be an event of highest merit.

New TDD installed

Denver Botanic Gardens has purchased a new Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) which has been installed in the Gatehouse. These devices enable people who are deaf, hard or hearing or speech impaired to make or receive telephone calls. This machine meets the public, text-telephone compliance standards as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The TDD telephone number is 303-370-8032.

Also, listening devices are available for programs held in Mitchell Hall. Please call the Education Office for more information, 303-370-8020.

Wires crossed

The Y2K bug struck early and often at the Gardens during the City and County's efforts to convert the telephone system to 21st century compatibility. In the process, the mailbox system was scrambled and recorded messages were lost. The Gardens apologizes for any frustration or inconvenience callers may have experienced during the changeover.

Cover story:

The secret life of bananas

Bananas lead interesting lives. People tend to think of banana plants as trees because of their size and form, but they are actually herbaceous perennials. A rhizome beneath the soil supports both roots and leafy shoots (pseudostems). The rhizome is the actual true stem of the plant. After the pseudostem produces about 40 leaves, approximately nine months after planting, the banana begins its reproductive stage and produces an arrangement of flowers on a pendant spike.

Banana cultivars used in commercial production have three types of flowers which appear systematically over a period of several weeks. First to appear are a large group of female flowers which require no pollination to develop fruit. These will ripen to become the seedless bananas familiar to everyone. Below these are a small group of flowers with both male and female parts. And then, below these are male flowers. In cultivation, the tip of the banana flower is often cut off to avoid attracting insects and to allow the plant's energy to be directed to the production of fruit. Once the banana plant has fruited, this pseudostem will die. New shoots that have initiated along the rhizome then develop new plants.

Outstanding examples of banana to observe in Tropical Botanica include *Musa* 'Raja Puri', the banana of India, known as "Fruit of the Wise Men." According to Indian legend, wise men meditated in the shade of banana plants. The fruit of this banana appears maroon and ripens to a golden color. *Musa* 'Jamaican Red' is hard to miss, as its stem of ripening fruits hangs conspicuously over the main path. One can stand directly below the impressive display of flowers and richly-colored bananas that will stay maroon even when ripe. Also in fruit is *Musa* 'Super Dwarf'. These plants were a foot tall when planted. Now, they stand over 10 feet tall and seemingly contradict their name 'Super dwarf'. Located on the path at the upper bridge, the visitor will experience a banana up close and actually see the flower structure and the developing fruits.

With such a display of fruit, visitors and volunteers are overheard extolling the many uses of bananas in pies, breads, puddings, dumplings and doughnuts. There are apparently endless opportunities to enjoy the fruit of this fascinating plant that is so valuable around the world.

Julie McIntyre, Horticulturist

Interesting banana facts

- Bananas have been grown for over 1 million years.
- Bananas derived a new name each time they were introduced to a new people.
- Centuries ago bananas were called "banna" and "ghana" and "funana"; Africans are credited with giving the banana its permanent name.
- The average person eats 33 pounds of bananas a year.
- Over 4 million tons of bananas are imported into the United States every year.
- Bananas are harvested every day of the year and are available year-round.
- Bananas are a good source of vitamin C, fiber and potassium.
- Bananas are the most popular fruit in America.



Musa 'Super Dwarf' produces a showy display of bananas in Tropical Botanica.

Jim Havey

Plants for the future — Plant Select® 2000

Panayoti Kelaidis



PAWNEE BUTTES™ Sand Cherry, a graceful, ground covering form of our native sand cherry.

As Plant Select® enters its fifth year, it offers five exceptional plants for regional gardens. How these plants found their way into Plant Select makes them all the more interesting.

The dwarf, carpeting cultivar of *Prunus besseyi* that Plant Select has designated PAWNEE BUTTES™ Sand Cherry, traces its origins to a hike taken on that windy plain late in the summer of 1982. As Panayoti Kelaidis and Jim and Dorothy Borland climbed to the summit of West Pawnee Buttes, they observed that the sand cherries throughout the area were very short. Was this habit of growth an environmental or genetic response? There was only one way to know for sure: two or three hardwood cuttings produced a few thrifty plants by the next spring. For 15 years these sand cherries prospered on a warm, dry slope in the Gardens' Rock Alpine Garden, retaining their carpeting habit in cultivation.

Gary Epstein and Scott Skogerboe at Fort Collins Nursery, were intrigued with the specimens in the garden and impressed with the performance of the plant in their trials. As plants were released for testing, the response was clear: PAWNEE BUTTES™ Sand Cherry filled a landscape niche for a durable, attractive ground cover. Fragrant white flowers in spring make way for tart fruit in midsummer and the burnished purple fall color adds immeasurable landscape value to this Plant Select introduction that is hardy to 9,000'.

In the months ahead, the Plant Select 2000 features will continue to explore the history of these new plants and the attributes that make them valuable to our gardens.



Ensete ventricosum 'Maurelii'.

Plant Portrait

***Ensete ventricosum* 'Maurelii'**

Ensete ventricosum 'Maurelii', known as Red Abyssinian banana, is a beautiful banana-like plant growing in Tropical Botanica. Plants within this genus belong to the *Musaceae* or banana family. They were once included in the genus *Musa*, but are now separated into the genus *Ensete*, which recognizes their larger seeds and distinctly different pollen. An additional characteristic setting them apart from bananas, in the genus *Musa*, is that they produce no natural offsets and are usually propagated by seed.

Red Abyssinian banana, native to Ethiopia, grows to an imposing height of 30 to 40 feet, but should not be considered a tree. The apparent trunk is composed of individual leaf stalks from which emerge great, paddle-shaped leaves with red markings. This gigantic herbaceous plant will eventually die after flowering. As the plant matures a flower stem emerges with a cluster of wine-colored bracts that enclose numerous flowers. The resulting banana-like fruits are only two to three inches long, dry and unpalatable.

Red Abyssinian banana stands in regal splendor close to the banyan staircase. The huge leaves are best viewed from the upper platform and the flower stem from the path south of the stairs. The flowering will continue for the next three to four months and then the plant will be replaced.

February

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

Horticulture Magazine Symposium, February 1

Horticulture magazine brings a host of nationally known speakers to the Gardens on February 1 to present a symposium on "Fitting in Naturally — Garden Designing with a Sense of Place" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. The cost is \$95 for Gardens members and includes lunch. Call *Horticulture* magazine to register at 1-800-395-1901.

Bonfils-Stanton lecture, February 23

Nationally recognized horticulturist and designer, Tracy DiSabato-Aust will share her secrets for a "Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques" on Wednesday, February 23 in Mitchell Hall. The lecture is at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., \$8 for members and \$12 for nonmembers. Call 303-370-8020 to register or you may buy tickets at the door.

Carnivores galore, February 26

Straight out of science fiction — plants that eat bugs! While most of us think of plants gathering their nutrients from the soil and air, Joe Tomocik knows about a select few that rely on insects for their food. Join Joe, curator of the Gardens' aquatic plants collection, as he explores the world of Carnivorous Plants. You will learn about the different varieties and their unique mechanisms for capturing insects. Plus, you will be treated to a tour of the Gardens' collection of these gems and receive a plant of your own to take home. Class is Saturday, February 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$24 for members and \$29 for nonmembers.

What Makes Music?, February 26, March 4

Come learn to make music using natural materials from the world of plants. Parents and children aged four to five years will discover the magic of music as expressed in various cultures. The first session is Saturday, February 26 at the Gardens, with the second session at the Denver Museum of Natural History on March 4. The cost for parent and child is \$40 for members, \$45 for nonmembers. Call the Museum at 303-322-7009 to register.



1

Horticulture magazine symposium
Bonsai Society meeting
Birds and Berries: Landscape for Wildlife*
Soil Renovation for New Home

6

Getting Savvy with Salves*

7

All Natural Face Care*
Beginning Botanical Illustration
Colored Pencil*

8

Is Environmental Education a Myth or a Reality?*
Cactus Society meeting
Beginning Botanical Illustration
Colored Pencil — Section I*
Beginning Botanical Illustration
Colored Pencil — Section II*
Watering the Landscape*

13

Homestyle Tinctures*

14

Illustrating Medicinal and Edible Plants of Colorado — Section I*
Illustrating Medicinal and Edible Plants of Colorado — Section II*
Mixing Colors and Practicing Gouache — Section I*
Mixing Colors and Practicing Gouache — Section II*

15

Bonsai Society meeting

20

21

Controlling Slope*

22

KEY FOR CALENDAR

Bold red type = Gardens events


(V) = Volunteers are needed.

Call 303.370.8049.

Bold black type = Plant Society events

Regular black type = Classes

(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Arboretum

 = Free to members

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Gardens events 303.370.8187

Plant Society events 303.370.8097

27

Angelica to Yarrow: The Basics of Growing Herbs*
Designing Your Garden II: Texture and Color*
Designing Your Herb Garden*
Well-Care Herbs for the Family*

28

Ultra Violet Club meeting
Garden Design for Novices*

29

Native Plant Society meeting
Flows of Flowers and Fabulous Foliage*

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

2

Bluegrass and Other Lawn Grasses*
Organic Vegetable Gardening*

3

Beginning Bonsai*

4

Free day and 11 a.m. tour
Chatfield Arboretum



5

**Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers
Society meeting**
Basics of Beekeeping*

9

The Perennial Advantage: Part I*

10

Rose Society meeting
Horticulture Therapy Techniques —
Series III*
Trees of Colorado Guide Training*

11

Trees of Colorado Guide Training*

12

Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging

16

**North American Rock Garden
Society meeting**
Herb Society of America meeting

17

The Seven Principles of Water-Smart
Gardening*
The Spirited Woman*

18

19

**Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers
Society school for judging**
Identifying Colorado Conifers*
Your First Water Garden:
Small Containers*

23

Bonfils-Stanton lecture

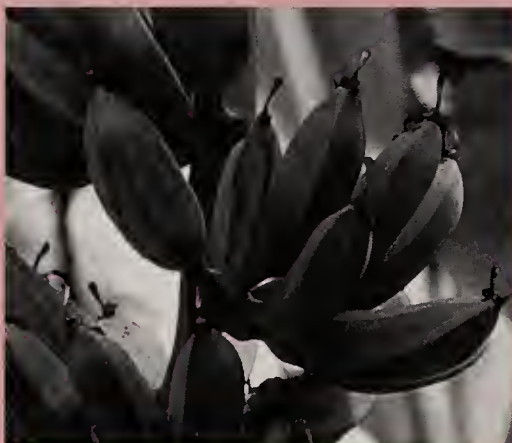
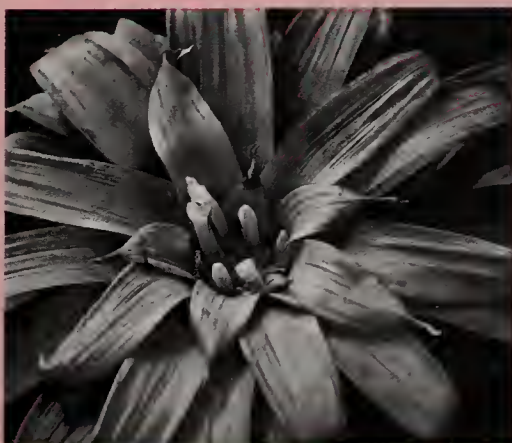
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Ikebana meeting
African Violet Society meeting
Gardeners of America meeting

25

26

Bonsai Society meeting/workshop
Carnivorous Plants*
Natural Soap*
Principles of Pruning*
What Makes Music*

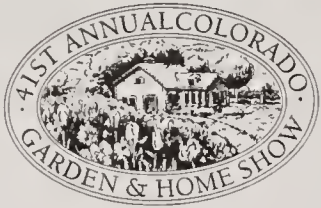


Jim Havey



Denver Botanic Gardens 2000

2000 Colorado Garden & Home Show



**Denver Botanic Gardens
member discount
for the Colorado
Garden & Home Show**

\$2 off

**general price of 2 tickets
Monday-Friday only
February 7-11, 3 to 9 p.m.**

Where You Get Started

Get a jump on spring by visiting the Colorado Garden & Home Show which runs February 5-13 at the Colorado Convention Center. Denver Botanic Gardens members receive weekday ticket discounts of \$2 on each ticket (maximum of two tickets). General admission: adults \$9, seniors \$8 and youth 12 and younger are free. There will be plenty of home improvement ideas and more than 10,000 blooming flowers in 13 garden areas. For more information click on www.garden-ingcolorado.com or call 303-932-8100.



DBG TRAVEL ADVENTURES

The Amazon

**Rivers, jungle lodges and rain forest ecology
Continuing education credit available
July 1-9, 2000**

Come explore the steaming jungles of the Amazon and receive continuing education credits in the process. Iquitos, Peru, located 2300 miles up the Amazon River, will be the port of entry for this tropical expedition. Jungle hikes through primary and secondary rain forests will expose us to the broad diversity of plant and animal species. There will be numerous excursions on the Amazon, its tributaries and adjoining lakes to study this complex ecosystem. Studies will focus on biodiversity, hydrology, ecology and ethnobotany. Visits to local villages will provide great opportunities for cultural exchange. (An optional extension to Lima, Cuzco and Machu Picchu will be offered.)

The price of this 9-day tour is \$2495 per person and includes: continuing education credits (TBD), airfare from Denver, lodging, most meals, land and water transportation, activities and guiding services. A \$400 deposit is required, with final payment due April 28. Non-educators are welcome. Call 303-370-8051 for information.

Other trip destinations include Hawaii, South Carolina, Canadian Rockies, France, China and Nova Scotia.

1999 Income Tax Deductibility of Memberships

The tax deduction you may take depends on the amount you paid for the membership, less its "fair market value." The FMVs for 1999 are \$10 for Gardener, Landscaper and Arbor Circle, \$46 for Botanist Club, \$82 for Conservator's Society and \$136 for Perennial Partners.

Gardens' members have a great resource

With your current membership card, you have free admission to the Gardens and can use the Helen Fowler Library as often as you please. Come in and enjoy gardening reference materials, many beautiful gardening books and hundreds of plant and supply catalogues. There are even videos and many current magazines to inspire your gardening—or just sit back and enjoy the views on a cold winter day! Your membership card doubles as a library card and allows you to borrow books for three weeks. For those who live a distance from the Gardens but within Colorado, it is possible to return books through your local library. Consult the librarians at 303-370-8014.

Valentine gift offer



Buy a new membership as a Valentine's Day gift and the Gardens will include a sweet surprise. A coupon for a 5 oz. floral box of Stephanie's fine chocolates from the Gardens Gift Shop will be tucked inside the gift announcement card! Your sweetheart is sure to love you for your thoughtfulness all year long.

New Planttalk™ brochure

The Planttalk™ program is a toll-free, automated, phone helpline service co-sponsored by Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, Denver Botanic Gardens and the Green Industries of Colorado. The first copies of the 2000 brochure will be available at the CSU booth at the Garden & Home Show, or call the library at 303-370-8014. Pick up your copy and get the latest and best tips to make your new year of gardening easy and productive!

Planned Giving

Leaving a legacy to Denver Botanic Gardens is a simple and rewarding thing to do. If you already have a will that does not include a bequest to the Gardens, your attorney can create a codicil, or simple amendment to your will. If you don't have a will, or your will hasn't been revised for many years, you should consider having a will drafted that meets the current needs of you and your family.

Please consider including a bequest to Denver Botanic Gardens when you next make an adjustment to your estate plans. Simply total all your assets — home, savings, personal belongings, collections, etc. — and decide how much to designate for the perpetual enhancement of Denver Botanic Gardens. As the Gardens moves forward energetically to become a world-class institution in horticulture, conservation, research and education, the support you provide in perpetuity will ensure its viability as a community treasure.

Carmen Neu, Planned Giving Manager, is happy to answer any questions you might have concerning a will or a gift that provides you with lifetime income. Call her at 303-370-8077. Please let her know if you have already included Denver Botanic Gardens in your estate plans so you can become a charter member of the Perennial Friends Society.

'99 year-end gifts tripled

Thank you to all who made the Gardens' special year-end-gift appeal a success. So many of you responded with gifts of support. Your gifts will help the Gardens begin the necessary steps to become a world-class institution. Through the year you will see your investment grow in new gardens and expanded research and education programs. You will want to visit the Gardens often to watch as the exciting new developments unfold.

Memorials and Tributes

In memory of Mr. David Drage

Ms. Dee Joy Coulter
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sanford
Ms. Wendy Robbins-Vogel

In memory of Mr. Billy Sellers

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Knickrehm

In memory of Mr. W. Ashton Lee

Mr. and Mrs. Ib Falk Jorgensen

In memory of Mrs. Mary Ellen Owen

Meta P. Barton
Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Wolfe

In memory of Ms. Mona Thall

Ms. Lisa G. Mullineaux

In memory of Ms. Betty Nieb

Ms. Mary Yanke
Ms. Leah Nelson
Mr. Thomas Lang
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Milum
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Nieb
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Nieb
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Nieb
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Scanlan
Ms. Katherine Lawson

In memory of Peggy Altvater

Ms. Margaret A. Wallace

In memory of Elaine Mostek

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Harned
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Herold

In memory of Mr. Barkley Clanahan

Mr. Richard H. Shay
Mr. Eugene G. Bowes
Mr. and Mrs. George M. Wilfley
Ms. Nancy Newton Davis
Mr. and Mrs. W. Ashton Lee
Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Steele
Mr. and Mrs. John Richardson
Dr. E. Paul Sheridan
Mr. Kenneth C. Egan
Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Cullen
Mrs. Joan S. Van De Venter
Mr. and Mrs. James S. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Ib Falk Jorgensen
Mrs. Kay Sellers
Mr. and Mrs. Blake Skinner
Dr. and Mrs. Mack L. Clayton
Mr. F. George Robinson
Ms. Billie F. Vance
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur M. Lakas
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Kirk
Mrs. Benjamin Stapleton
Mrs. Franklin L. Burns



Create your story!

Many people have taken the wonderful opportunity to share their love and memories through an engraved brick in the Romantic Gardens. There is still time for you to use these bricks to tell your story that will last a lifetime. Let your imagination design a one-of-a-kind gift for someone you love. To purchase a brick, or for more information, call Tiffany Jones at 303-370-8055.



The used book sale is coming! Denver Botanic Gardens' Plant and Book Sale will take place May 12 and 13, 2000. Every imaginable kind of book will be for sale.

Each year thousands of books are donated to Denver Botanic Gardens' Helen Fowler Library and all proceeds go directly to buying new books, videos and CD-ROMs for the Library.

How does the Sale get enough books to sell? People donate them — members, just like you! Donations are accepted year-round and volunteers are ready to receive your donations now. Any kind of book is welcome except Reader's Digest condensed books and old textbooks. Books and magazines about gardening and other plant-related subjects are especially appreciated. Customers at the Sale are often searching for information on unusual plants

Your donations may be delivered to the Library anytime during regular business hours, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day, including Saturday and Sunday. Call ahead to 303-370-8014 for directions. Your donations are tax deductible, just ask the librarian to send you a letter acknowledging your gift.

Spring is almost here so get a head-start on your spring cleaning and bring your books to Denver Botanic Gardens.

New! Youth speaker series

The Gardens' first-ever, speaker series for youth is a collaboration with the Colorado Mountain Club featuring famous conservation authors. Each author will focus on a slightly different age group, centered around middle school students, but interested youth of all ages will find the speakers refreshing and informative. Students will enjoy inspiring talks by these great citizens of the literary world:

Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m.

Mathis Wackernagle, author of *Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth*

"This is one of the most interesting and important pieces of work I have seen in quite a while. It attempts to translate all the verbiage about sustainable development into something concrete on which wiser policy choices can be based, and helps people focus on some of the most pressing issues of our time."

Sandra Postel, Worldwatch Institute

Friday, April 14, 10 a.m.

Peter Menzel, author of *Material World: A Global Family Portrait*

"This remarkable book vividly presents its own cross section of families today, with the energy and intimacy of a work of art for our times...This is a record of striking value. No time traveler could bring back a more valuable souvenir!"

Scientific American

Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.

Paul Gruchow, author of *Boundary Waters: The Grace of the Wild*

"Boundary Waters is our twentieth-century Walden. Like Thoreau, Gruchow travels into the wilderness as a way to understand himself and the world. Like Thoreau, he writes in a style as clear, as ordinary and as filled with brilliance as the night sky. Gruchow writes, 'Our deepest longing is to have a place.' With this book, he points us towards home."

*Mary Pipher, author of *Reviving Ophelia**

To pre-register for any speaker, call 303-370-8019 or 303-370-8020. Unregistered students will be admitted on a space-available basis so come early. Admission is \$3.

Each speaker will be presenting the same subjects to adult audiences on Friday evenings. These programs are hosted by the Colorado Mountain Club at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden. Call 303-279-3080 x106 for more information.

"What Makes Music?"

Parent/Child Class for Children (age 4-5)

Bring your children for a two-day musical workshop, jointly hosted by Denver Botanic Gardens and Denver Museum of Natural History. On the first day (at the Gardens), you will explore the musical sounds of instruments made from plant materials. Shake, rattle, and roll to the sounds of plants! On the second day (at the Museum), you will discover how different cultures use music in everyday life. Classes will be held on Saturday, February 26 and Saturday, March 4. Call the Museum's registration line at 303-322-7009 (select option 4) to register for both classes. The cost is \$40 for members, \$45 for nonmembers.

Gardeners with class — Winter/Spring Catalog

Well-care class

Is your luck dodging the flu bug running out? Want to discover some alternatives to cough syrup and throat lozenges for fighting winter colds? Trying to figure out a way to protect your kids from the latest germ raging through their school? Herbs can help! Join Linda Millican as she shares her knowledge about herbs in Well-Care Herbs for the Family. This class is designed to introduce the use of herbs to promote healthy families, from infants to seniors. Through lecture and discussion you will learn how to select and use herbs for basic health care, and receive a handout to help you try these remedies at home. Class will be held February 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$14 for members and \$18 for nonmembers.

Plan on perennials

Do you anticipate the arrival of spring and the blossoms it brings, but also realize that you need some help in developing the garden of your dreams? Beginning gardeners and homeowners can get the Perennial Advantage with Eleanor Welshon as she introduces a variety of perennials suited to Front Range gardens. In this three-week class, topics such as matching the garden plan to the site, caring for perennials, selecting plants and preparing the soil will be covered. A slide show and open discussion will complete the class, so bring lots of questions. Class begins on February 9 at 1 p.m. Cost is \$36 for members and \$39 for nonmembers. For more information, or to register for any of these classes, call the Registrar's Office at 303-370-8019 or 303-370-8020.

Environmental Education talk

The Gardens presents an informative and thought-provoking talk, "Is Environmental Education a Myth or a Reality?" on Tuesday, February 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. Botanic gardens can and do play a key role in environmental education and the goals and principles are illustrated by two different approaches: botanic garden education and ethnobotany.

Guest speaker, Dr. Gerard Mutumba, is an environmental educator and plant biology instructor from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. He is a Fulbright Scholar at Longwood Gardens, PA and will visit the University of Boulder while on sabbatical.

The lecture, \$8 for members, \$12 for nonmembers, begins promptly at 7 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. Please register by calling the Education Office at 303-370-8020 or 303-370-8019. Tickets may also be purchased at the door the evening of the program.

"Trees of Colorado" guides needed



Jim Havey

Like plants? Love children? Then come join Denver Botanic Gardens' theme tour guides. Starting in mid-February, the theme tour guides will be introducing young people to the wonders of "Trees of Colorado."

Volunteer guides will lead small groups of 3rd to 7th grade students through the Gardens to investigate trees. A basket of props and a booklet full of kid-friendly information makes leading the tours fun and easy. Following the outdoor tours, students and guides proceed to the Discovery Room where hands-on investigations await them. Students will learn "What Makes Blue Spruces Blue?" and "Do Red Leaves Have Green Chlorophyll?" They'll

inspect insects under microscopes and learn for themselves how a pine cone feels different from a spruce cone — without looking! In both the Discovery Room and on the tour, students will explore with all of their senses, and leave with a better sense of the wondrous world around

them. Great guides facilitating the program make the learning enjoyable.

Theme Tour Guides do not need to be dendrology experts. They do need to be willing to learn about trees and eager to share their knowledge with young people. Tours are scheduled Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 10 a.m. to noon from February 15 through April. Guides are asked to commit to leading at least four tours during the season and to attending the "Trees of Colorado" training sessions on Thursday and Friday, February 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information or to sign up for "Trees of Colorado" training, please call Lisa Castle at 303-331-5777.

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Green Thumb News

www.botanicgardens.org

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TDD 303-370-8032

Dr. Green plant information 303-370-8068

Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Planttalk (24-hour) 1-888-666-3063

recorded plant information

Gift Shop 303-331-4009

Helen Fowler Library 303-370-8014

Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Chatfield Arboretum 303-973-3705

Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

On the cover: Tropical Botanica, Jim Havey

Green Thumb News

March 2000



A world of orchids

Cover Story on page 4



News

from the Executive Director



The Wild Side

News from Chatfield

Preparation for 2001!

Every true gardener thinks way ahead, planning or planting for the coming year or, in the case of major landscaping, for ten years ahead. Even in the tropics, instant gratification is rarely possible. As you may know by now, 2001 is the Gardens' 50th birthday. It is also the year in which we are host to the Annual Conference of the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) which will bring approximately one thousand staff and trustees from botanic gardens around the world to Denver. We have to look our very best and planning is already well under way.

Two major building projects are in process. First is the extension north of the Lobby Court which will provide new space for plant displays in a garden court adjacent to a multi-purpose room for talks, events and exhibits. In addition, the expansion will provide much-needed accommodation for our education and research staff. At Chatfield, work has begun on the restoration of the Hildebrand Farmhouse and its associated buildings. This has been made possible by generous funding from the State Historical Fund.

You will also be seeing feverish activity throughout the Gardens. Horticulture staff have a massive task of installing new gardens and giving the existing ones a major makeover; facilities staff will be making repairs to almost every structure and walkway throughout the site. Behind the scenes, things will be humming, coordinating all of the meetings for the conference and planning a series of exciting events to give everyone who visits Denver in 2001 the most memorable experience possible.

*Brinsley Burbidge,
Executive Director*

It's not too early to start planning for summer camp. Reward the young child, neighbor, or grandchild in your life with the chance to discover the sights, sounds and smells of a fun-filled, enriching program of activities on 350 acres of rural splendor of the century-old farms of Chatfield Arboretum!

Last summer, almost 90 children from seven to 11 years old enjoyed a week of fun on the farm at Chatfield's Deer Creek Discovery Camp. The young campers cared for animals in the barnyard, learning to feed, clean and handle a variety of hairy and feathered friends.

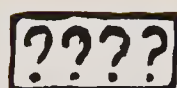
The gardens and tree-lined trails of Chatfield were magical playgrounds for watching wildlife, painting blossoms and catching insects. Added excitement was created by rock hopping in the creek, the sudden appearance of five mule deer bucks, or the emergence of a mountain man at the campfire! And, who would not be fascinated by the discovery of the queen bee in the hive, or finding out how many trips it took the bees to make honey from flowers! Fish stories abounded when campers compared pollywogs and crayfish with their new friends.

Call Chatfield Arboretum at 303-973-3705 to receive your camp brochure. Registration for seven weekly sessions opens March 27. Act quickly — the word is out!



Employee of the Month

The February Employee of the Month is Thomas Grant, Research Assistant. Tom's friendly and tireless assistance via the Computer Help Desk have won him accolades throughout the Gardens. His spirit of teamwork and enthusiasm for the Gardens shines through in all his work, from computers to rare plant conservation.



Plant Puzzler

Q: What pollination mechanism, excluding self-pollination, is common to all orchids?

This month's Plant Puzzler was provided by Nick Snakenberg, DBG's Orchid Curator.

A: To ensure their continued existence, all orchids are pollinated by animals and have developed highly specialized mechanisms to attract bees, butterflies, ants, moths and birds.



Tim Wirth to speak on the environment

Timothy E. Wirth, President of the United Nations Foundation and former Senator from Colorado, will be the keynote speaker at an evening event on Wednesday, April 19 at Denver Botanic Gardens.

The Garden Club of Denver and its partners will dedicate the proceeds from this event to restore and revitalize Box Canyon as a millennium gift to the citizens of the Denver area.

Box Canyon is an historic landscape feature in City Park adjacent to the Denver Museum of Natural History. It was designed in 1953 as part of the original Denver Botanic Gardens and is in dire need of rehabilitation. The waterway and indigenous plant species are reminiscent of a mountain canyon setting.

The Garden Club of Denver joins 194 units of the Garden Club of America around the country in presenting millennium gifts to their communities. Partners in this project include Denver Urban Gardens, Denver Department of Parks & Recreation, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and The Park People.

This special evening includes cocktails, a seated dinner, followed by a presentation on U.S. and global environmental issues and tickets are \$85 per person. Call Tinka Kurtz 303-771-3381, Ginny Freyer 303-733-9235, or Barbara Baldwin 303-783-0010 for details.

Mrs. Thomas Taplin elected Life Trustee



Denver Botanic Gardens has the great pleasure to announce that Mrs. Thomas Taplin has been selected for the position of Life Trustee of the Gardens, a rare and distinct honor. Mrs. Taplin has been a Trustee of Denver Botanic Gardens since 1978 and served as President from 1988 to 1990. She has also been actively involved in several other Denver non-profit organizations, serving on the Boards of the Visiting Nurse Association, Children's Hospital where she is also a Life Trustee, and the University of Colorado Foundation. She is currently a Trustee of the Denver Foundation where she chairs the Grants Committee.

Welcome new Trustees

Denver Botanic Gardens relies on the guidance and support of a strong Board of Trustees and welcomes the following individuals who have joined this important group:

Robert Hampton, President of Jones Financial Group, Ltd., originally a mayoral appointee to the Board of Trustees; **Stephen Christopher**, CEO of ING Life Group-US, President and CEO of ING Security Life (presenting sponsor of the Summer Concert Series for the past three years); **Cile Chavez**, President of Cile Chavez Consulting, nationally recognized speaker and former educator and superintendent in Littleton Public Schools; **Arnold Roane**, Director, Total Quality Initiatives & WEthics at Lockheed Martin Astronautics; **Tad Kelley**, co-founder of CHB Capital Partners, a private equity firm; **Beatrice Thurston**, spouse of former Trustee William Thurston and a resident of Durango.

The Gardens deeply appreciates the invaluable contribution and dedication of all members of the Board of Trustees.

Spring Plant Sale sign up

The Spring Plant Sale is one of the biggest and best volunteer events of the year at the Gardens and will take place on Friday and Saturday, May 12 to 13. Volunteers are needed during the two-day sale and to help set up beginning May 10. Don't miss out on the fun; call the Plant Sale information line to sign up, 303-331-4011.

This year the Plant Sale will concentrate on unique and exceptional plants, which will also be planted in DBG gardens this spring. Members-only shopping hours will be greatly expanded: Friday from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Watch the April issue of *Green Thumb News* for more details!



Cover Story: *A world of orchids*

ORCHIDS. The name alone conjures images of exotic shapes, colors and fragrances, as well as mysterious jungle environments. While these images hold some truths, the orchid world is bigger than many might imagine. With the estimated number of species in the orchid family (Orchidaceae) ranging from 25,000 to 35,000 worldwide, it is probably the largest flowering plant family. It is, undoubtedly, the largest family of monocotyledons. While the largest concentration of species occurs in the tropics, orchids can be found in almost any habitat other than the oceans.

Orchids grow in tundra, semi-deserts and seaside scrub. You may be surprised to know that over 27 species are native to Colorado. Orchids have adapted to grow successfully throughout the world. Some grow terrestrially (in the soil, either moist and swampy or dry and sandy), some



Jim Havey

x Doritaenopsis x Alice Loeb will be on display during the Denver Orchid Society Spring Show.

lithophytically (on rocks and cliff faces) and some epiphytically (in the air on tree limbs). Taxonomists are in agreement that all orchids hold one common characteristic that is not present in any other flowering plant family. The male portion of the flower (the stamens) and the female portion of the flower (the pistil) are fused into one structure known as the column.

The orchid collection at Denver Botanic Gardens has recently become the focus of renewed interest and attention. Housed in a nonpublic greenhouse at the west end of the Conservatory, the collection includes 720 different species representing 183 different genera. More space has been dedicated to growing these exotic beauties and a curator has been assigned to the care and development of the collection. In a family so large and diverse it is impossible to grow them all, therefore some parameters are being established to focus the collection. As a botanically-oriented institution, naturally occurring species and hybrids are the primary focus, however, artificial hybrids of historical merit or high quality will also

be included in the Gardens' growing collection. Many orchids are displayed for public view in Tropical Botanica. A more focused display area will be developed so that more of the collection can be shared with visitors.

The diversity and mystery of orchids make them a compelling plant to grow as a hobby. A common misconception is that orchids are difficult to grow. Many enthusiasts have learned that the key to success is understanding the unique requirements of each plant and growing those plants whose cultural requirements you are willing and able to provide. To learn more about the culture of orchids, visit the Helen Fowler Library at Denver Botanic Gardens to find a wonderful selection of books on the subject. The Gardens' education department also offers classes on orchid culture in the home. In addition, the Denver Orchid Society provides an excellent opportunity to learn in a relaxed and social atmosphere with a membership eager to share their knowledge and enthusiasm of these enchanting and beautiful plants.

Nick Snakenberg, Orchid Curator



Brassia Edvah Loo 'Nishida' is strikingly beautiful when in flower.

Plants for the future – Plant Select® 2000

Panayoti Kelaidis



SPANISH GOLD™ Broom welcomes visitors to the Rock Alpine Garden every spring with a stunning show of flowers.

When the Rock Alpine Garden was completed in 1981, the horticulture staff was presented with the challenge of filling an acre of bare ground and magnificent rock outcrop with wildflowers, shrubs and trees from the world's high places. One of the guiding principles was to seek out actual wild plants, not those improved by selection or breeding, to showcase the simple elegance of unadorned nature. One of the surprising and imme-

diate benefits of this policy was that many wildflowers do much better in Colorado gardens than the hybrids of selections made for mild, maritime climates that are the predominant garden plants in the nursery trade.

There can be no better example of this than the choice of a broom for the garden. At the time, selections or hybrids of *Cytisus scoparius* were prevalent in the nursery trade. A plant of low elevations in rainy, cool northwestern Europe, it is subject to sunscald or even winterkill during a typical Colorado winter. For the Rock Alpine Garden, an alpine broom from a more southerly, extreme region in Spain was the broom of choice. *Cytisus purgans* has grown lustily on the most exposed pinnacle at the entrance to the Rock Alpine Garden. Each year it forms a stunning mound of evergreen stems, and for weeks in late spring it is spangled with fragrant, yellow pea flowers. In 17 years it has suffered no winter dieback, and displays prodigious bloom no matter what extremes of weather come its way.

Designated by Plant Select® as SPANISH GOLD™ Broom, it has proven to be a hardy container plant and promises to be an outstanding addition to local gardens and landscapes. SPANISH GOLD Broom will eventually replace other brooms as a tougher and more appropriate shrub for the Colorado garden.



Phalaenopsis amabilis illustration by Jayme Irvin.

Plant Portrait

Phalaenopsis amabilis

The genus *Phalaenopsis* includes about 50 species of epiphytic and lithophytic orchids that grow throughout tropical Asia and south to tropical Australia.

Phalaenopsis amabilis was the first of the genus to be discovered and was described by Linnaeus in 1753 under the name *Epidendrum amabile*. The genus *Phalaenopsis* was created in 1825. *Phalaenopsis amabilis* is the most geographically widespread of the genus and can be found from the Philippines south to Queensland, Australia.

It is also the largest flowered species of the genus and therefore a dominant parent in most modern *Phalaenopsis* hybrids. *Phalaenopsis amabilis* is tolerant of higher light levels than other members of the genus but can be grown as any other *Phalaenopsis*. Provide medium to bright light conditions and intermediate to warm temperatures (65 to 85 degrees F). *Phalaenopsis* have no pseudobulbs for water storage, so the growing medium should be kept constantly moist. This beautiful orchid will be on display at the Denver Orchid Society spring show on March 11 and 12 in Mitchell Hall.

March

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

African Violet Show & Sale, March 25, 26

Hundreds of blooming African violets, starter plants and other gesneriads in all colors and varieties will be for sale at "Springtime in the Rockies," the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council's 37th annual spring show and sale on March 25 and 26 in Mitchell Hall. Experts will be available to answer your questions. Saturday hours are 1 to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entrance is included with general gate admission. Call Nelly Levine for more information, 303-423-6072.

Denver Orchid Society Show, March 11, 12

"Where the Wild Things Are" is the theme for the Denver Orchid Society's spring show and is sure to inspire many imaginative and dramatic exhibits at the show and sale in Mitchell Hall on March 11 and 12. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Entrance is included with general gate admission.

No Bonfils-Stanton Lecture

Please note that due to a timeline change in grant funding, the Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series for this spring has been postponed. It will most likely resume this fall.

A new look for spring

Dramatic transformations will be showcased throughout the grounds as new gardens are planted. Look for the Children's Secret Path to snake a trail of adventure for youngsters through the wooded area between the York Street fence and the O'Fallon Perennial Walk. The Cutting Garden is relocating to more spacious "digs" in the former Rose Test Garden, making way for the Colorado Plaza, featuring the best of our western native plants in innovative displays. Vegetables thrive in the French-themed Potager Garden, flanked by an inviting Sidewalk Café extending the ambience of the Monet Garden. Exotic plants set the tone in Tropicalismo while containers will showcase diverse combinations of beauty in every area of the Gardens.



5

Designing Your Herb Garden*


6

Vines & Ground Covers*

7

Bonsai Society meeting

12

Denver Orchid Society 
Spring Show and Sale
Colorado Water Garden
Society meeting

13

Mycological Society meeting

14

Cactus Society meeting

19

Daylily Society meeting

20

Cacti & Other Succulents
for Beginners*

21

Bonsai Society meeting

KEY FOR CALENDAR

Bold gold type = Gardens events


(V) = Volunteers are needed.

Call 303.370.8049.

Bold black type = Plant Society events

Regular black type = Classes

(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Arboretum

 = Free to members

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Gardens events 303.370.8187

Plant Society events 303.370.8097

26

Rocky Mountain African Violet 
Council spring show and sale

The Culinary Herb Garden:
Starting at Square One*

27

Ultra Violet Club meeting
Conifers for Colorado Gardens*

28

Colorado Native Plant Society meeting

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WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

1-11 Travel Adventure:
Hawaii, A Three Island Odyssey

2

Creative Techniques for Environmental Interpretation*
Intermediate Bonsai: A Maple Grove*
Orchid Workshop*

3

Free Day & 11 a.m Tour
Chatfield Arboretum
Spring Wreath*



4

Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers mtg.
Understanding Front Range Soils*
Water Gardening for Beginners*

8

Starting a Horticulture Therapy Program*

9

Growing 101 Herbs that Heal:
*Lecture on Medicinal Herbs**
Rose Society meeting
Rural History of the Chatfield Site*

10

Propagation Workshop*

11

Denver Orchid Society 
Spring Show and Sale
Rocky Mountain Orchid
Judging Center

15

Herb Society of America meeting
North American Rock Garden
Society meeting
A Garden of Your Own: Colorado Style*
The Perennial Advantage: Part II*
Tools for Easier Gardening Workshop*

16

Basic Herb Gourmet Cookery*
Colorado Ecology*
Never-Fail Perennials*
Transparent Acrylics for Botanical Illustration — Section I*
Transparent Acrylics for Botanical Illustration — Section II*

17

Youth Education Series
Mathis Wackernagel*

18

Bonsai Society meeting
High Country Judges workshop
Rocky Mountain African Violet
Council meeting

22


22-27 Travel Adventure:
Charleston, Beaufort and Savannah

23

Ikebana meeting
Gardeners of America meeting
African Violet Society meeting
Intermediate Bonsai: Pumice Stone Planting*
The Rose Garden*
Watchable Wildlife of Chatfield — Session I: Mammals*

24

25

Rocky Mountain African Violet 
Council spring show and sale
Container Herb Gardening*
Herb Topiaries*

29

mtg. Making and Using Flower Essences*

30

31



Jim Havey



DBG TRAVEL ADVENTURES

Canadian Rockies

Wildflowers, Heli-Hiking and Photography
August 1 to 9, 2000



Naturalist guides and renowned photographer Charles Mann will lead this unique northern adventure starting with wildflower hikes near Lake Louise and Moraine Lake. The adventure includes a helicopter ride to our remote lodge in British Columbia. The Adament Lodge, located in the Selkirk Mountain Range, will be the tour's wilderness home. Each day, participants will helicopter to a new wildflower location to hike and photograph the alpine beauty. After a gourmet meal, evenings can be spent relaxing, discussing photographic techniques or just enjoying the mountain solitude.

The price of this nine-day tour is \$2695 per person and includes: lodging, most meals, ground transportation, daily helicopter service, activities, instruction, professional photographer services and professional naturalist guiding services. A \$400 deposit is required, with final payment due May 5. The tour is limited to 15 participants.

This trip is rated "moderate." Hiking will often be at timberline, may be several miles in length and over uneven terrain.

Other DBG tour destinations include: Charleston/Savannah, France, Amazon, Winter Park, Nova Scotia, China and New Zealand. These trips are filling fast. Call Pam Rathke, Travel Coordinator at the Gardens, for more information or to make reservations, 303-370-8051.

1999 Income Tax Deductibility of Memberships

The tax deduction you may take on a DBG membership is based on the amount you paid for your membership, less its fair market value. The FMVs for 1999 memberships are \$10 for Gardener, Landscaper and Arbor Circle, \$46 for Botanist Club, \$82 for Conservator's Society and \$136 for Perennial Partners.

More member discounts

Denver Botanic Gardens welcomes Gulley Greenhouse, Inc. of Ft. Collins as a new supporter of the Gardens. When you shop there, identify yourself as a member of the Gardens and receive a 10 percent discount. They are located at 6029 South Shields Street and carry a full line of trees and shrubs, foliage plants, bedding plants, perennials, garden roses and planting supplies to make your garden grow. For information, see their Web site at www.gullygreenhouse.com and then drop by for a visit and thank them for their support.

In Denver, Wild Flowers: At Home with Nature, located at 1201 Madison Street, is now giving a 15 percent discount to upper-level members of the Gardens (\$120 and higher). This neighborhood business has a surprising inventory of nature-oriented essentials for home and patio living, houseplants, fountains, garden books and unusual gifts. Sincere thanks go to Dan Jones for increasing his level of support for the membership program!

Visit often — it's free!

Denver Botanic Gardens will host a dazzling variety of plant society shows this spring where serious gardeners show off some of the finest plants available anywhere. As a member of the Gardens, you are invited to attend these special exhibits at no charge — one of the many benefits of membership.

Highlights of the spring season include shows and sales presented by the Denver Orchid Society, the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council, the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society, the Denver Rose Society, the North American Rock Garden Society and the American Iris Society.

Consult the centerfold calendar of the *Green Thumb News* each month for dates and details.

The gift that gives back

Here's a gift that returns the favor! A contribution to Denver Botanic Gardens' charitable gift annuity program provides a substantial gift to the Gardens, and you receive income for the rest of your life.

If you are 65 years old, you can make a minimum gift of \$10,000 that guarantees you an annuity of 7%, or \$700, for the rest of your life. If you are 75 years old, you receive 8.2% of your gift annually. At age 80, the rate is 9.2%, and at 85, the rate is 10.5%. These rates are considerably better than what you receive from certificates of deposit.

Besides receiving a lifetime income and making a substantial gift to the Gardens and your community, you are also usually allowed a charitable tax deduction for approximately 40 to 50 percent of your gift the year you make your contribution.

An excellent way to fund a charitable gift annuity for yourself is with appreciated securities. Your income is based on the market value of your stock, and you are responsible for only about half the capital gains tax liability you would incur if you were to sell the securities. Payment of the capital gains tax is spread over your lifetime.

For detailed, no-obligation information about charitable gift annuities, call Carmen Neu, Planned Giving Manager, at 303-370-8077. Should you join the gift annuity program, you will become a valued Perennial Friend of the Gardens.

Field of Dreams

Tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and crocus—30,000 in all! Last December, Denver Botanic Gardens was the fortunate beneficiary of a generous gift from The Last Detail, a local garden center located at 1001 South Gaylord Street. The bulbs were left over from a very busy season at The Last Detail and number only slightly less than the total number of bulbs already planted this season at the Gardens.

Half of the tulips were planted in a massive, 30-foot-wide shrub border between the O'Fallon Perennial Walk and the Amphitheatre. Mostly Darwin tulips, this "Field of Dreams" begins at the north end with magenta reds, grading through scarlet, orange, and ending with pure yellows at the south end.

The remainder of the tulips and other bulbs were planted in pots and plunged in order to coax them (the Gardens doesn't like to force bulbs) to bloom earlier in the season. They will be placed in the Lobby Court and other public areas.

Thank you to Laurie Jekel, President of The Potted Garden/ Last Detail and her associates for providing this blossoming extravaganza to start off a great new century!



Memorials and Tributes

In memory of Margaret Altvater

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Ms. Lucille Ryland

In memory of David Esbenshade

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In memory of Herbert Jones

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Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Mangum, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Drage

In memory of Mrs. Robert Gast

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Wilbur

In memory of Earl R. Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Holben

In memory of DeDe Gorin

Ms. Isabel M. Roberts

Sisters of Loretto

Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Griffiths

Delta Theta Pi Sorority

Mrs. James L. Gorin

In memory of Ona Fiant

Ms. Karen Fiant

In memory of Job Nooteboom

Mr. and Mrs. Ib Falk Jorgensen

In honor of Mildred Foust

Ms. Carolyn Foust

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Kirk

Ms. Sarita Behr

In honor of Sally Wantz

Ms. Sarita Behr

From the Community Gardens

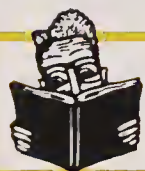


The Community Gardens are coming to life after a restful winter dormancy. Early signs of life include spinach sown last fall and the first shoots of spring bulbs, promising bright colors for the days ahead. Are you dreaming of growing your own fresh basil and abundant salad greens? If so, the Community Gardens have a few spaces available for new gardeners who want to join our community and give their green thumbs a try.

The Waring, Gaylord and Morrison Community Gardens have served over 250 gardeners each season for more than 15 years. In addition to good company and good soil, the Community Gardens provide tools, water, seeds and mulch for the gardeners: all the necessary elements

for a fantastic vegetable, herb and flower garden all season long! Free workshops twice a month will demonstrate easy organic gardening techniques, plus other fun garden projects. The Community Gardens are a great place for amateurs and long-time gardeners alike!

Even if you have your own garden space at home, do come by and visit. You will observe and learn from an eclectic and creative blend of techniques and styles. The Community Gardens open for the season on Saturday, March 25 and the public is welcome to walk through them at no charge. If you'd like to participate, call Community Garden Coordinator Estee Fleming at 303-370-8042.



The Garden Plot From the DBG Library

Are orchids useful?

Orchids compete with grasses as the largest families of flowering plants. According to one recent source, there are approximately 25,000 species of orchids and 9,500 species of grasses. The two families have similar geographical distributions in that they are very widespread. Members of both families grow north beyond the Arctic Circle and also to southern extremes, although not in Antarctica. The grasses include many plants that are important to humans as staple crops, including rice, corn and wheat. By contrast, the only orchid grown commercially as food is vanilla. How could such a large family not be used by man throughout history? Of course they are used by man!

In Papua New Guinea rubbing a newborn girl with an orchid leaf ensures that she will be strong. In the southeastern United States, *Aplectrum hyemale* corms were worn as an amulet and to tell fortunes. *Dendrobium macarthiae* is used as a temple offering in Sri Lanka on Buddha's birthday. According to folklore, *Cymbidium gyokuchin* or "thirteen treasures" caused the barren empress of China's Shin dynasty to have 13 sons, as the flower spike traditionally bears 13 flowers. Orchids are the national flower of Costa Rica, Colombia, Prince Edward Island,

Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Panama and Singapore. In Australia, where many orchids grow terrestrially in areas of low rainfall, orchid tubers were used extensively as food. A tea is made in Mauritius from the leaves, leaf stalks and flowers of *Angraecum fragrans*. The aerial roots of *Vanilla grandifolia* are used in Gabon to make fishing nets.

This only hints at the numerous uses of orchids. Come to the Helen Fowler Library and discover more.

Books in the Helen Fowler Library used for this article:

- Ames, Oakes. 1979. *Orchids in Retrospect: A Collection of Essays on the Orchidaceae*. Earl M. Coleman, Standfordville, N.Y.
QK495 .064 A36Am 1979
- Dressler, Robert L. *The Orchids: Natural History and Classification*. 1990 ed. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass.
QK 495 .064 D747Or 1990
- Lawler, Leonard J. 1982. "Ethnobotany of the Orchidaceae." in *Orchid Biology: Reviews and Perspectives*, v. 3. Comstock, Ithaca, N.Y.
QK 495 .064 0733 v. 3
- Mabberley, D.J. 1997. *The Plant-Book: A Portable Dictionary of the Vascular Plants*. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K.
QK 11 .M3 1999
- Reinikka, Merle A. 1995. *A History of the Orchid*. Timber Press, Oregon.
SB 409 .R44 1995
- Sikula, Jaromir. 1978. *Grass: a Concise Guide in Colour*. Hamlyn, London.
QK 495 G74 S569

Landscaping for the inexperienced and time-challenged



Do you love the look of a beautiful garden but lack time or experience to design one? If so, come to the Gardens on Saturday, April 15 and learn from local experts as they help you, step by step, through the process of creating your own attractive, easily maintained landscape. First-time landscapers juggling a busy schedule will find these talks inspirational and empowering, but not overwhelming. Whether you are moving into a new home with an old yard, a newly built home with no landscaping, or just want a new look, now is the time to make garden changes.

The symposium begins with “Digging in the Dirt” as Andrew Pierce, Director of Horticulture at Hudson Gardens, describes the first steps to a successful landscape.

Next, landscape designer Jocelyn Chilvers presents “Landscape Design Basics” to show you ways to customize your landscape to suit your site, needs and desires.

Horticulture instructor Ray Daugherty discusses “Shade and Shrubbery” and how woody plants provide year-round framework and structure for your landscape.

The day concludes with perennial expert Eleanor Welshon’s talk, “Finishing Touches,” that will cover color schemes, planning your garden and choosing tried-and-true plants that thrive in our region.

This all-day program, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., is \$59 for members and \$71 for nonmembers and includes all handouts and lunch. Please register by calling the Gardens’ registration office at 303-370-8020 by April 7 and indicate your choice of regular or vegetarian lunch.



Before and one month after in a garden designed by Jocelyn Chilvers. Simple changes led to shady living spaces, less time spent watering and mowing the now-lush, colorful yard.

Youth education — meeting the standards

A field trip to Denver Botanic Gardens is not a simple walk in the park. For 6th graders on a Trees of Colorado theme tour, the field trip is a lesson from Colorado Model Content Science Standard 3.1. Meanwhile, high school students using the Pollen Lab Kit focus on Science Standard 1. Kindergartners in the Sprouts Program work towards proficiency on Math Standard 5. Fortunately, none of the students know it. They come to the Gardens to enjoy the plants.

Denver Botanic Gardens educators believe that learning should be fun. They also agree that school is about learning and there are standards which all students should meet. DBG’s youth education team develops new programs by looking both at what the Gardens has to offer and what students need to learn. The Model Content Standards adopted by the Colorado State Legislature are used as a reference point to ensure that all of the materials fit the standards at the appropriate grade level. While every youth education program at the Gardens deals with plants, these programs are

designed to be interdisciplinary and do not focus solely on science. Math, geography, history and the all-important reading and writing skills are also stressed. Learning is taken seriously at the Gardens and students find it seriously fun.

If you’d like to help children meet their standards while learning the joys of plants, call Lisa Castle at 303-331-5777. The field trip season peaks in May and volunteers are needed to excite students about plants at interactive carts, replenish activity backpacks and answer questions throughout the Gardens.

Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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Denver, CO
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DON'T MISS...



Keep orchids looking beautiful with Phal-Safe™ Orchid Supports. These attractive and practical spiral supports are adorned with gold, cloisonné or glass beads. While in the Gift Shop, look at the lovely selection of hand-thrown, Stonington garden pottery.

Green Thumb News

www.botanicgardens.org

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
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Designer: Julie Rudofsky

Hours

Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
with extended hours May-September

General information 303-331-4000

TDD 303-370-8032

Dr. Green plant information 303-370-8068

Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Planttalk (24-hour) 1-888-666-3063

recorded plant information

Gift Shop 303-331-4009

Helen Fowler Library 303-370-8014

Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address changes 303-370-8060

Class registration 303-370-8020

Facility rental 303-370-8012

Green Thumb News 303-370-8033

Guided tours 303-370-8019

Job Hotline 303-370-8000

Membership services 303-370-8029

Security, emergencies 303-370-8017

Special events information 303-370-8187

Development 303-370-8055

Volunteering 303-370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 303-973-3705

Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

On the cover: Orchid, Jim Havey

Green Thumb News

April 2000

DISCOVERY AT CHATFIELD
it's only natural

Cover Story on page 4



51st Annual Plant and Book Sale
May 12 & 13 - New Hours
See insert for new information
regarding members-only shopping hours



News from the Executive Director

Spring is truly here after several false starts back in February when we all remember the temperature reaching 70° with crocus blooms showing great optimism that summer was on its way. We can now safely put away our thermal vests and change our car ski racks for ones to hold mountain bicycles and kayaks. Don't forget that ski racks are great carriers of garden tools, saving the usual mess in the back of our cars. (An out-of-town friend of mine commented that both the male elk and the male drivers in Colorado show their herd status by the complexity of their racks!)

With spring comes planting fever and the rush of plant society meetings, symposia and sales at the Garden. These provide many opportunities to pay us a visit, see the new developments Rob Proctor and his team are implementing throughout the Gardens and also go away with new ideas and new plans for your own garden. The big one, our annual Spring Plant and Book Sale is next month and is already well in hand and you will see some added excitement with a far stronger focus from our horticultural staff on unusual plants and on those that do spectacularly well in Colorado.

Mention of the Spring Plant and Book Sale gives me another opportunity to compliment our wonderful team of volunteers, in this case those who show up every year to make our plant sale the great event which it has become. Without your help this Garden would be so much less and we applaud your dedication and good-natured support.

Brinsley Burbidge, Executive Director



Employee of the Month

The March Employee of the Month is Julie Loquidis. As an Environmental Team Leader, Julie shows an incredible amount of initiative, enthusiasm and commitment to ensuring the success of the new horticulture teams. Many changes have taken place within the Horticulture Department in the last several months, and Julie always maintains a positive attitude and a smile no matter how tough or complicated the issue.

It pays to have fun in the summertime!

Denver Botanic Gardens is seeking friendly people for entry-level, customer service positions during the summer months, including the gatehouse, beverage cart, information desk and horticulture. Flexible full- and part-time schedules are perfect for moms, retirees, students or anyone who enjoys working in a positive and fun environment.

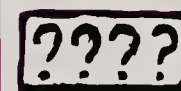
Applications may be picked up at the Information Desk in the Education Building or the Reception Office in the Waring House. Just imagine, spending quality time in the Gardens — and getting paid for it! For information, call the Gardens' Jobline at 303-370-8000.

New Director of Education and Visitor Services blooms

Spring is upon us, and one of the Gardens' new bloomers this year is Diane L. Stahl, the new Director of Education and Visitor Services. Diane is responsible for the leadership and management in adult, youth and public program development, interpretation throughout the Gardens and community outreach. She is also overseeing customer service, a new area of focus at the Gardens.

"Diane brings a refreshing new perspective to Denver Botanic Gardens," said Executive Director, Dr. Brinsley Burbidge. "We are beginning to focus our attention on the entire visitor experience as an opportunity to delight and enlighten our guests. Diane brings tremendous zest and originality to this challenge."

Diane's former work experience includes Director of Membership at the Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc., Assistant Director of the Seniors' Program at Jewish Community Center and Assistant Director of the Anti-Defamation League. She is a graduate of the University of Denver, as well as an avid gardener and watercolorist. Diane also serves on the board and committees of Hospice of Metro Denver, Lower Downtown Denver, Inc., CultureHaus (Denver Art Museum) and Race for the Cure. Welcome Diane!



Plant Puzzler

Which native shrub grows along the riparian areas at Chatfield producing tart berries that were gathered by native people, made into preserves by homesteaders and gave Cherry Creek its name?

This month's Plant Puzzler was submitted by Jackie Sanderson, Naturalist at Chatfield Arboretum.

A. Western Choke Cherry, Prunus virginiana.

Women's expo

The American Heart Association (AHA) will be at the Gardens once again on Wednesday, May 24 to promote their women's expo, Keeping Women Young at Heart. The AHA will present a day of health-oriented activities beginning with a fitness walk through the Gardens at 7:00 a.m. Health screening tests will include blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol levels. Various cardiology experts will discuss women's heart-smart issues, a registered dietitian will give a cooking demonstration and exercise professionals will be on-sight to teach proper ways to stretch and exercise.

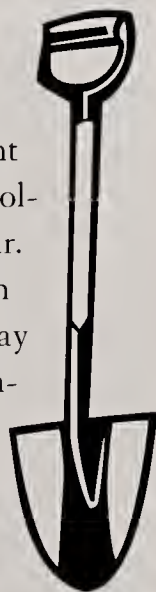
The deadline for registration is May 12 and space is limited. The cost is \$35 and includes health screenings and lunch, provided by Three Tomatoes Catering. Enter through the Main Gate on York Street and enjoy a day dedicated to your good health. For information and to register, please call 303-369-5433.

Census 2000 reminder

Don't forget to fill out the Census 2000 form you received in the mail from the government. Your response is important and the outcome of Census 2000 will have a major impact on you, your children and your neighborhood.

Plant Sale volunteers

The upcoming Spring Plant and Book Sale is the biggest volunteer-driven event of the year. Lots of help is needed for both the set-up which begins on May 8, and the two-day extravaganza that takes place May 12 and 13. Call the Plant Sale information line to volunteer your time, 303-331-4011.



New Communications Manager blooms

Another new bloomer this year is the Gardens' new Communications Manager, Kristy Van Koughnet. Kristy is directing all strategic and tactical communications for the Gardens and managing the Green Thumb News, Mountain Plain and Garden, annual report, collateral, graphics and all new publications.

Kristy previously worked as Senior Manager of Corporate External Communication for Gap, Inc. in San Francisco. As the Gardens prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary and host a North American trade association conference in 2001, "Kristy will provide the seasoned communications support we need to let all our constituents know about the great work we have done at the Gardens in the past 50 years, but more importantly, about plans for this premier institution for the next 50 years," said Dr. Brinsley Burbidge. Welcome Kristy!

Sixth Annual BirdHaus Competition



Who?

Everyone can enter — all ages, individuals or teams

What qualifies?

Birdhouses and Bird Feeders

- Birdhouses may not exceed 40 pounds in weight.
- Industrial strength materials that will withstand the elements are required.
- Please, NO particle board, foam core or cardboard.
(outdoor entries with these materials will NOT be accepted.)
- We prefer to display the birdhouses outside, so please consider rain and wind in your construction!

When?

May 1, by 5 p.m. — Deadline for receipt of entry forms

June 1, 2 and 3 — Birdhouses need to be delivered to the Gardens

June 15, 5:30 p.m. — Birdhaus Bash — Garden Party and Auction to benefit
Gardens' Youth Education programs

June 16 through July 9 — Public Display of entries

More questions?

For **entry forms** or answers to your questions, call **303-370-8091**.

Register to enter by May 1.

DISCOVERY AT CHATFIELD — it's only natural

Jim Havey



Discovery Camp kids, (l) Michelle Bauman and (r) Mariel Sabraw.

Deer Creek Discovery Camp announces its second season! Young children ages seven through 11, are invited to spend a week of old-fashioned fun at Chatfield Arboretum's 700-acre farm.

The historical farmsteads at Chatfield serve as the base for the camp. The popular curriculum includes activities to immerse children in farm life with learning experiences centered on animal and garden care. Nature activities excite participants by providing opportunities to discover pond, woodland and grassland plants and creatures. Daily walks create a comfort level for children, and spending time within wild settings helps them learn to respect the native plants and animals that live within those habitats. Games, crafts and schoolhouse activities encourage creativity and promote learning about the history of the area.

Participants in last summer's program collected tadpoles, harvested fresh lettuce and carrots, fed farm animals and made beeswax candles and other crafts. Feedback from the almost 90 children who attended last year, as well as their parents, was extremely favorable. The camp is expected to fill to capacity early again this season.

Prior to last year's opening, the interior of the farmhouse was painted, plumbing was renovated, a new picket fence (matched to historical photos) was con-

structed and a chicken coop was installed to create a more hospitable setting for the program. Safety issues were also addressed, such as placing additional sand under the vintage playground equipment at the schoolhouse to meet state licensing requirements.

Staff for the Deer Creek Discovery Camp are selected on the basis of their respect for children and their demonstrated experience, along with their enthusiasm and competence in outdoor education. Volunteers assist by preparing the grounds and cleaning the farmhouse, presenting sessions in the historical schoolhouse, helping with lunches, cookouts and campouts, driving hayride wagons, or just lending a hand in many other areas to make the camp exciting for its young visitors. The Chatfield staff is also crucial in the preparations and operation of the camp. When one of last year's campers said his least favorite thing about camp was "leaving," the Deer Creek Discovery Camp staff knew they were on the right track!

Started in 1999 with a generous grant from the W. M. B. Berger Foundation, the camp offers seven sessions that begin on June 19 and end on August 11. The program runs from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for the overnight camp-out each Thursday night. Registration is \$195 per week to members of Denver Botanic Gardens at the Arbor Circle level or above. The non-member weekly fee is \$220. The fee includes all lunches, snacks and camp-out meals. For more information, please call Chatfield Arboretum at 303-973-3705.



Jackie Sanderson, Naturalist, captures the imagination of Discovery Camp campers.

Jim Havey

Plants for the future—Plant Select® 2000

David Winger, Denver Water



CORAL CANYON Twinspur flowers throughout the summer in Colorado gardens.

The last two decades have seen hundreds, if not thousands of new plants appearing in gardens. *Delosperma*, *Agastache* and *Diascia* are three groups of plants essentially unknown in the 1970s and now found in many gardens. Of these three genera,

the *Diascia* have been the least utilized in local gardens. Virtually all of the more than 50 species of *Diascia* come from South Africa. Each blossom has two spurs (rather like a stubby columbine) which are responsible for the only common name, "Twinspur."

Only a few species of *Diascia* have shown the gusto and stamina to thrive in the heavy and mineral-rich soils of Colorado. The most heat and drought tolerant species is undoubtedly *Diascia integerrima* from the Drakensberg Mountains of eastern South Africa. Panayoti Kelaidis, Curator of Plant Collections at the Gardens, was thrilled to find this species throughout the Drakensberg region on an excursion in 1996. It formed wide, bushy masses with brilliant salmon-pink flowers. His excitement rose when he found a population of the same species on one dry spur of the range growing much shorter—barely a foot high. Seeds from this population were grown in several spots at Denver Botanic Gardens where the plants maintained the compact habit of growth and flowered from late spring to autumn frost. Further testing at Welby Gardens and other local nurseries mandated this compact form of *Diascia integerrima* the designation CORAL CANYON Twinspur by Plant Select®. CORAL CANYON is one of the longest blooming, showiest plants for the Colorado garden. Don't leave home without it!

Plant Portrait

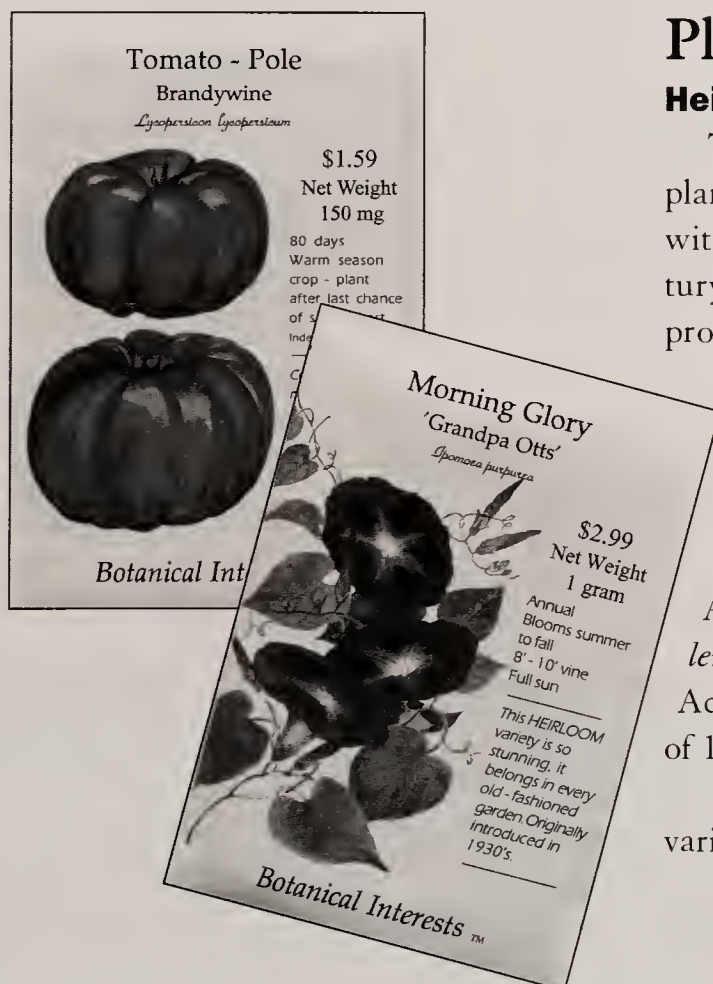
Heirloom plants at Chatfield

The historical farmhouse at Chatfield Arboretum is the perfect setting for growing plants with a history. The garden plot adjacent to the historic farmhouse is planted with heirloom varieties of vegetables and flowers that represent plants of the 19th century. The original garden at the homestead was about one-half acre. Flowers were probably not grown in the early history of the garden, as they would have been con-

sidered a luxury. Several heirloom annuals now enhance the unaffected beauty of the garden. The simple but stunning flowers of 'Grandpa Ott's' morning glory (*Ipomoea purpurea*) add an old-fashioned elegance throughout the summer.

Heirloom vegetables have become increasingly popular in recent years and are considered by many to be superior in taste and genetic qualities to modern hybrids. Among the savory delights of the garden is Brandywine tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*), thought by many gardeners to be the best tasting tomato in the world. According to documentation by William Woys Weaver, it was introduced in January of 1889 by the Philadelphia seed firm of Johnson & Stokes.

In a new century ripe with the promise of technology and industry, the heirloom varieties are a link to the taste and texture of the past. They are well worth remembering.



April

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

Tim Wirth keynote speaker, April 19

Tim Wirth, President of the United Nations Foundation and former Colorado Senator, will speak on U.S. and global environmental issues at a dinner on Wednesday, April 19 in Mitchell Hall. Tickets for this event are \$85 per person and proceeds will benefit the Box Canyon restoration project in City Park. The restoration is a millennium gift to the community from the Garden Club of Denver. Call Barbara Baldwin 303-783-0010 for details.

Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale, April 1, 2

The Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society will have a huge selection of plants on display at their annual show and sale, including many winter-hardy varieties for Colorado. Experts will answer questions and conduct free mini-workshops throughout the weekend. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and entrance is included with Gardens admission. Call Steve or Mary Ann Sewell for information, 303-238-9975.

Denver Rose Society Symposium, April 8

Join rose growers of the Denver Rose Society as they discuss the many techniques of maintaining a rose garden. The symposium is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is included with Gardens admission. Call Dr. Jim Lindenmuth for information, 303-341-5888.

Rock Garden Society Sale, April 22

The North American Rock Garden Society's annual sale will feature the best selection of alpine plants in the Rocky Mountain region. Experts will be on hand to answer questions and assist in selecting plants. The sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and entrance is included with Gardens admission. Call Gesa Robeson for information, 303-344-4281.

Basic Birdhouse Design, April 5

Spring is back and so are the birds! Learn to create a unique avian abode to welcome them home in Basic Birdhouse Design, a class where you will build and decorate a one-story wooden birdhouse in time for spring nesting and the BirdHaus Bash. A birdhouse kit and paints are provided, but the "extras" are up to you. Class will be held on Wednesday, April 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$42 for members and \$51 for nonmembers. Call 303-370-8020 for more information or to register.

KEY FOR CALENDAR

Bold pink type = Gardens events


(V) = Volunteers are needed.

Call 303.370.8049.

Bold black type = Plant Society events

Regular black type = Classes

(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Arboretum

 = Free to members


FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Gardens events 303.370.8187

Plant Society events 303.370.8097



2

Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale 

3

Free day at York Street



4

Bonsai Society meeting
Beginning to Draw Plants in Pen and Ink - Sec. I*
Beginning to Draw Plants in Pen and Ink - Sec. II*
Designing the Year-Round C

9

Colorado Water Garden Society meeting & seminars

10

Mycological Society meeting
Beginning Botanical Illustration in Watercolor*
Beginning Botanical Painting in Gouache Spring/Summer Flowers*

11

Cactus Society meeting
The Smaller Rock Garden*

16

Members' Gift Shop Sale Event 
Daylily Society meeting

17

18

Sprouts guide training
Bonsai Society meeting

23

24

Ultra Violet Club meeting

25

Colorado Native Plant Society meeting

30

Please note, the Gardens will be closed Thursday, May 11 in preparation for The Spring Plant and Book Sale

Free admission • More than 250,000 plants • Thousands of books • Great Mother's Day gifts



Parking and Plant Valet

Free off-site parking is available at National Jewish Medical and Research Center (parking lot at 14th and Albion) and a shuttle bus will drive you the short distance to the Gardens. You'll receive an additional 10% off your plant purchases for riding the shuttle. Enter the Gardens from the main gate or from the Gaylord entrance. (No admittance via the Cheesman gate.) **Plant valets** will be located at the corner of 11th Ave. and Gaylord and at the main entrance on York St. Simply leave your purchases with the valet, return with your car and volunteers will help load your plants into your car.



Books

Thousands of donated books, magazines, compact discs and videos will be for sale at bargain prices in Mitchell Hall. Proceeds will be used to purchase new books for DBG's Helen Fowler Library.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Plant and Book Sale is the biggest volunteer-driven event of the year and lots of help is needed before and during the sale. It's fun and



Denver Botanic Gardens 51st annual Plant & Book Sale May 12 & 13



The focus of the 51st Annual Plant and Book Sale is on unusual plants and catering to members of Denver Botanic Gardens. The rewards of being a member will truly pay off with expanded members-only Plant Sale hours (free admission!) and first choice of our collection of unusual plants, such as hardy Fuchsia and hardy Clivia lily, which will also be planted in Denver Botanic Gardens new Gardens of the World. Members will receive a 10% discount and are invited to attend the first-ever Rare Plant Auction. **Please note the time and date changes** that have been made – all to better serve members and reduce lines. New memberships can be purchased at entrance gates.



Members-Only Shopping Day
Friday, May 12, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Only one person will be admitted for each membership



Public Plant Sale Hours
Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday Members-Only Shopping Hours

May 13, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

(Seniors and physically challenged may also shop.)



B.Y.O.W.

"Bring Your Own Wagon"

Bring your own wagon or cart to transport plants. To reduce wear and tear on the gardens and limit expenses, **carts will not be provided.** Within the sale we will offer "plant holding areas." If your wagon or cart is overflowing, simply let us babysit your plants while you continue to browse. Energetic volunteers will assist you with your plants at check-out.



Rare Plant Auction

Friday, May 12, 6 p.m.

This first-time event is only for members and will feature a unique selection of rare plants for indoor and outdoor gardens. A highlight will be an authentic, documented offspring of a Johnny Appleseed tree originally planted in 1821.

Survived, call 303-301-7411 and leave your
name and telephone number.



Plant Select[®]

What grows well in Colorado? At the Plant Sale, the Plant Select[®] Program will debut this year's plant selections, as well as previous winners chosen by DBG, Colorado State University and Green Industries of Colorado for their suitability to the special growing conditions of the Rocky Mountain Region.

Refreshments

Soda, bottled water, sandwiches, cookies, chips and other snacks will be for sale.



Please note the Gardens will be closed Thursday, May 11 for sale preparation.

**For more information about the Plant & Book Sale, call 303-370-8021.
Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York Street, Denver, CO 80206
www.botanicgardens.org**





5

All Natural Face Care*
Basic Birdhouse Design*
Dividing Perennials for Beginners*
Propagating Miniature Roses*

6

Flowers With Their Pollinators - Sec. I*
Flowers With Their Pollinators - Sec. II*
Watchable Wildlife of Chatfield -
Session II: Reptiles, Amphibians
& Insects*

7

Free day & 11 a.m. tour
Chatfield Arboretum
Botanical Illustration in
Colored Pencil - Sec. I*
Botanical Illustration in
Colored Pencil - Sec. II*



8

Denver Rose Society
Rose Symposium
Rocky Mountain Orchid
Judging Center
Conifer for Colorado Gardens -
Field Trip Section I*
Conifer for Colorado Gardens -
Field Trip Section II*
Pamper Yourself: Part II*
Papermaking with Herbs*

12

13

Denver Rose Society meeting
Four Seasons/Circa Botanica
Walk with Curators, Talk with Friends
Behind-the-Scenes Adventure
Landscaper and Gardener members
Teachable Moments Along
Deer Creek*

14

Peter Menzel*

15

Members' Gift Shop Sale Event
Destiny With Perennials*
Destiny with Perennials - Section II*
Destiny with Perennials - Section I*
Landscaping for the Inexperienced
and Time Challenged*
Pressed Flowers & Herbs*
The Water Garden:
Basic Pool Construction*

19

U. S. and Global Environmental talk
Herb Society meeting
North American Rock Garden
Society meeting

20

Botany Basics and Native Plants*

21

22

Rocky Mountain Rock Garden
Society Alpine Plant Sale
Destiny With Perennials*

26

27

Ikebana meeting
African Violet Society meeting
Gardeners of America meeting
Organic Rose Growing*

28

29

Bonsai Society meeting
Destiny With Perennials*
Papermaking with Iris Leaves*

Behind-the-Scenes Adventure Visions of the Future



As a special treat this year, all GARDENER and LANDSCAPER members are invited to a lecture and slide presentation by Rob Proctor, Director of Horticulture, on Thursday, April 13. Two sessions will be held at 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. Light refreshments will be provided by Three Tomatoes Catering. Reservations are required and may be made for up to two people for each current membership card, by calling 303-370-8018 by April 10 or until space limit is reached.



DBG TRAVEL ADVENTURES

A travel adventure awaits you

Denver Botanic Gardens is hosting tours to several wonderful destinations in 2000, including the following:

FRANCE – Paris, Giverny and Provence

“The Impressionist Road” for Art and Garden Lovers with Rob Proctor & Susan Fisher, May 24-June 2

“The Impressionist Road” for Hikers, June 7-18

AMAZON – Rain Forest Ecology, July 1-9

(Continuing Education Credit Available)

CANADIAN ROCKIES – Wildflowers, Heli-Hiking & Photography with Charles Mann, Professional Photographer, August 1-9

NOVA SCOTIA – Cape Breton Island & the Bay of Fundy, September 14-21

NEW ZEALAND – February 2001

Please call Pam Rathke, Travel Coordinator at Denver Botanic Gardens at 303-370-8051 for reservations or more information.

Plant and Book Sale

This year, the 51st Annual Plant and Book Sale is focused on catering to members! The rewards of being a member will truly pay off with greatly expanded members-only Plant and Book Sale hours and the opportunity for members to have first choice of the collection of rare and unusual plants. Please read the Plant and Book Sale insert and note the time and date changes that have been made — all to better serve members and reduce lines.

As in past years, in order to better serve members, it will be necessary for every member to show a current membership card for members' early admission to the sale. Only one person will be admitted with each membership card. Seniors, age 65 or older and physically challenged members may bring a second person to assist them with their purchases. Membership tables will be available outside the gate if you do not have your membership card.

If you are a book lover, be sure to visit the used book sale during the Plant Sale where thousands of books will be available including gardening books and magazines, cook books, novels, children's books and even philosophy books!

Please Note:

- **Only one person per membership card will be admitted to the members' early shopping sessions. (See above for details)**
- **No shopping carts will be provided this year in order to save on wear and tear at the Gardens. Please bring your own wagons for transporting plants.**
- **Members-only shopping hours are from 3 to 7 p.m., Friday, May 12 and 8:30 to 10 a.m., Saturday, May 13.**
- **Don't miss the Rare Plant Auction on Friday, May 12 at 6 p.m.**

Vida F. Ellison Trust helps build Education Building

Denver Botanic Gardens wishes to express a sincere thank you to the Vida F. Ellison Trust for its generous stock gift distributed by co-trustees Bill and Jack Griffith. This contribution will help fund the renovation and expansion of the Education Building.

Vida F. and Robert S. Ellison were well known in the Wyoming Oil Industry. The Ellisons settled in Manitou Springs where they built the Briarhurst Restaurant and developed the tourist attraction, Cave of the Winds.

The Gardens greatly appreciates this gift and the opportunities it provides.

You can double your gift!

Your employer may be a participant in a Matching Gift program. This program has become an increasingly important way for companies to allow their employees to direct a portion of the company's monies earmarked for charitable contributions. Your company may match your gift to Denver Botanic Gardens dollar for dollar, allowing you to make a larger gift and a stronger impact on the growth of the Gardens. Be sure to check with your Human Resources department to see if your company has a Matching Gift program. Pick up the needed form and mail it with your gift to the Gardens. Your dollars will grow and so will Denver Botanic Gardens!

Who are the Gardens Perennial Friends?

Perennial Friends are special people who assure that the Gardens will blossom in full glory year after glorious year. Horticulture, education, research, and conservation are all part of the mixture sown to create its unique and beautiful texture. Like all gardens, Denver Botanic Gardens needs constant attention and nurturing, and Perennial Friends help ensure its future.

If you have already remembered Denver Botanic Gardens in your estate plans, please inform the Gardens so that you can be included as a charter member of the Gardens' Perennial Friends! Call Carmen Neu, Planned Giving Manager, at 303-370-8077 or fill out the form below.

- ☐ I have included Denver Botanic Gardens in my estate plans and wish to become a charter member of Perennial Friends.
- ☐ Please send me a free booklet with information that will help me become a Perennial Friend of the Gardens.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Mail to: Carmen Neu, Planned Giving Manager
Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York Street, Denver, CO 80206.

Memorials and Tributes

- In memory of DeDe Gorin**
Ms. Mary Jane Cartwright
Ms. Linda Griffin
Mr. Doug Gorin
Ms. Elizabeth S. Lindholm
- In memory of Mr. David Drage**
Ms. Ruth P. Stanley
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D'Amico
- In memory of Mary K. Meyer**
Mr. and Mrs. Ib Falk Jorgensen
- In memory of Herbert Jones**
Rose Marie Bowden & Walter Kordziel
- In memory of Anna R. Garrey**
Morse Family Foundation
- In memory of Glenn Roiger**
Mrs. Laura Roiger
Ms. Linetta Marie Stinson
- In memory of William M. Griffith**
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Kirk
- In memory of Louise Thornton**
Ms. Mary S. Reisher
The English Dept. at Aurora Central High School
- In memory of Jim Hohlt**
Ms. Genevieve Gonzales
Mr. and Mrs. James Hoyt
- In memory of Isabel B. Van Dusen**
Rose Community Foundation
- In memory of Myrtle Dudler**
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Anderson
- In memory of Carolyn McCurdy**
Mr. and Mrs. Ib Falk Jorgensen
- In memory of Hans T. Nielsen**
Mr. and Mrs. Ib Falk Jorgensen



The Garden Plot

From the DBG Library



In Beatrix Potter's book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, why was Peter Rabbit willing to risk life and limb to hop into Mr. McGregor's Garden? The carrots — of course!

The history of carrots spans far beyond this children's story.

The common orange carrot (*Daucus carota* subsp. *sativus*) is said to have existed in the Roman empire. Wild red and violet varieties traveled through Iran and Syria to Spain in the 1100s and currently grow in Afghanistan. White carrots grow wild throughout Europe and are an escaped exotic in the United States. Their common name is Queen Anne's Lace.

So what was Mr. McGregor growing for Peter Rabbit's munching pleasure? Yellow carrots came to England from a Flanders variety grown since the 1500s, but the first deeply orange carrots were developed in Holland in the 1600s. All modern varieties are descendants from these Dutch carrots, including Mr. McGregor's.

Carrots are easily selected to create different shape and colors. Henry Vilmorin did a classic selection experiment on white carrots. He collected seed from the wild carrots on the coast of Belgium and in four years he selected and developed a white carrot that was large and had a tender, fleshy taste. This variety was introduced to the trade in 1839 and is still available today as Belgian White. Through his experiment Vilmorin demonstrated that selecting for better qualities was possible using a wild plant. This experimental method was used for many kinds of plants in Europe. In 1890, Vilmorin's work was still being touted as a revolution for the kitchen garden.

When you create your vegetable garden this year, will you choose selections that have been created throughout history or will you plant your own selection from the seeds you saved?

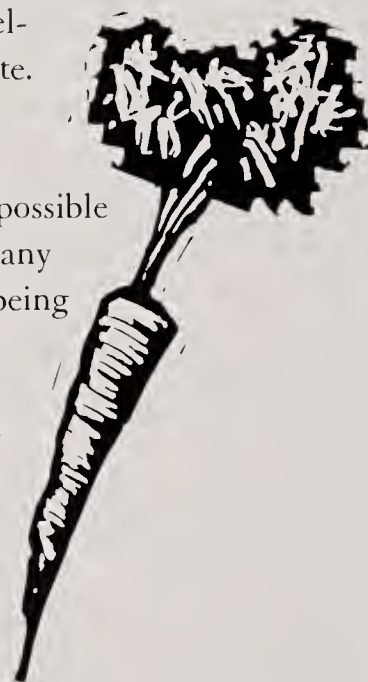
Books in the Helen Fowler Library used for this article:

Quinn, Vernon. *Roots: 1938. Their Place in Life and Legend*. Frederick A. Stokes, New York. QK 644 Q5

Phillips, Roger & Martyn Rix. 1994. *The Random House Book of Vegetables*. Random House, New York. SB 321 . P537 1994

Root, Waverley. 1980. *Food*. Simon and Schuster, New York. TX 349 R5 1986

Weaver, William Woys. 1997. *Heirloom Vegetable Gardening*. Henry Holt & Co., New York. SB 324. 73 . W43 1997



Sensory guiding: sensational volunteer opportunity!

Remember the first time you tasted chocolate mint and the amazement you felt that a green leaf tasted exactly like a York Peppermint Patty? Can you recall when you discovered that fragrance in the garden is more complex than mere flowery smells? When was the last time you were aware that the gentle breeze was nodding the grass plumes?

Imagine sharing this wonder of the garden throughout the summer! Sensory tours provide garden experiences for persons with special needs. The Gardens is recruiting guides for the summer season. Training begins May 5 and volunteer hours are flexible. Your time is honored and appreciated. To become a part of the award-winning sensory tour program or find out more information, call 303-370-8020.

Non-guides in demand

Looking for a chance to share the wonders of the plant world but know that guiding is not for you? You could be a candidate for teaching at a touch cart or acting as a garden specialist. Denver Botanic Gardens has several interactive carts with all the props necessary for great plant exploration. Volunteers are needed to attract visitors to the carts and facilitate investigation. Meanwhile, busy spring mornings bring busloads of children to the Gardens eager to learn. Garden specialists stationed in their favorite gardens can help point out the fascinating facts and share their enthusiasm with the children. The Gardens provides training for both positions and schedules are flexible. Call Lisa Castle, 303-331-5777 to learn more.

Spring brings change to Mr. McGregor's Garden



If you notice carrot windsocks billowing from the community gardens into Denver Botanic Gardens' parking lot, or youth erecting a giant tipi frame, or children intent on turning compost, do not be alarmed. You are witnessing the development of Mr. McGregor's Pick and Plant Garden, a children's community garden and outdoor learning center.

For the last two years Mr. McGregor's Garden (named after the character in Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*) has been a place where young children in the Sprouts program picked, planted and dug for worms.

This year, more students than ever will come for Sprouts, but they will not be the only ones picking and planting. The new Mr. McGregor's Garden, which includes a science center, a Story Time Tipi, and lots of places to pick and plant, will be open to everyone.

New programs

Three new programs will bring visitors to Mr. McGregor's Gardens. On Saturdays in the summer, Mr. McGregor himself will lead science investigations for any young people who stop by. Sunday afternoons will bring story readers to the shady, living Story Time Tipi in the garden. The garden will be open everyday for home gardeners who want to see innovative techniques for small-space vegetable gardens or want to try their hand at turning compost. Throughout the season, high school students in vocational and summer programs will help build and maintain the garden.

Room for involvement

Opportunities to volunteer in Mr. McGregor's Garden abound. Whether you are available weekends or weekdays, enjoy guiding preschoolers or gardening with teenagers, prefer science or stories, there is a position for you. Contact Lisa Castle at 303-331-5777 for more information on ways to help out.

Thanks to DURP

The exciting new changes for Mr. McGregor's Pick and Plant Garden would not be possible without a grant received from Denver Urban Resources Partnership (DURP). DURP is a collaboration involving federal, state and local agencies and organizations, as well as neighborhood groups, dedicated to making our urban areas better places to live. The DURP mission is to enhance, restore and sustain urban ecosystems in the six-county Denver metropolitan area.

In addition to giving financial support to Denver Botanic Gardens for the expansion of the Pick and Plant Garden, DURP is funding many other terrific projects throughout Denver. The benefits of such funding stretch out to many corners of the city, touching many lives and encouraging the stewardship of natural areas. Thank you to Denver Urban Resources Partnership for the generous support and commitment to Mr. McGregor's Pick and Plant Garden. You are all encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and stop by and experience the garden for yourself.



Sprouts guides needed

If digging in Mr. McGregor's Garden with a five-year-old sounds like fun, and you are not afraid of scarecrows, earthworms or "monster trees," you might be the perfect candidate for a Sprouts guide. People who love young children are needed to lead tours and hands-on activities Tuesdays and Thursdays in April, May, June and September. No gardening expertise is required, but a sense of fun is. Training for this ever-popular program is on Tuesday, April 18. Call Lisa Castle at 303-331-5777 for more information on how you can be one of the lucky guides feeling the "guts" of the ice plant and tasting the first spinach of spring.



Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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DON'T MISS...

Denver Botanic Gardens Gift Shop
is pleased to invite all members to the
First Ever Members-Only Sale Event!
April 15 & 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



**Gardens members
will receive 20% off
ALL regular priced
items in the store.
Members must pre-
sent their current
membership card to
receive the discount.**

Green Thumb News

www.botanicgardens.org

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Editor: Rachel McKinzie Designer: Julie Rudofsky

Hours

Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
with extended hours May-September

General information 303-331-4000

TDD 303-370-8032

Dr. Green plant information 303-370-8068

Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Planttalk (24-hour) 1-888-666-3063

recorded plant information

Gift Shop 303-331-4009

Helen Fowler Library 303-370-8014

Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address changes 303-370-8060

Class registration 303-370-8020

Facility rental 303-370-8012

Green Thumb News 303-356-3325

Guided tours 303-370-8019

Job Hotline 303-370-8000

Membership services 303-370-8029

Security, emergencies 303-370-8017

Special events information 303-370-8187

Development 303-370-8055

Volunteering 303-370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 303-973-3705

Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

On the cover: Chatfield Arboretum, Jim Havey

Green Thumb News

May 2000



*Plant Exploration:
China and Beyond*

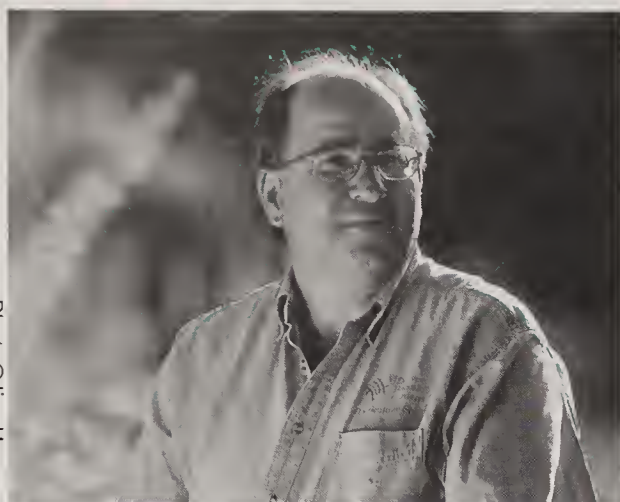
Cover Story on page 4



News

from the Executive Director

Photo©Jim Havey



Panayoti Kelaidis, Curator of Plant Collections.

This *Green Thumb News* issue has a strong focus on plant exploration, a pursuit that has been at the heart of botanic garden activities for many hundreds of years. Things have changed since the early days when botanic gardens were places to grow and demonstrate medicinal plants.

Our gardens are now places for science, pleasure and education, but the impetus to seek out and try new and exciting plants continues to this day. International, national and local laws protect plants in

the wild, and only explorers with scientific reasons and specific permits may collect, which makes the acquisition of new plants difficult, but not impossible. Exchange of plants between botanical institutions is now the most frequent way in which we get to try new species.

The greatest plant collectors (and exchangers – for who among us has not built a collection on the generosity of others in return for our own willingness to share our treasures) have usually been outstanding horticulturists, taking their knowledge of how plants grow into the field. One of the greatest has recently been honored with the Arthur Hoyt Scott Garden and Horticultural Medal and Award. Since 1929, this award has been presented annually to individuals who have made outstanding national contributions to the science and art of gardening. This year's recipient, Panayoti Kelaidis, curator of plant collections, has "changed the face of continental gardening."

Panayoti has been at Denver Botanic Gardens for 20 years, during which time he has made a truly exceptional contribution to the range of plants grown in gardens. He has brought many plants from all over the world to Denver, and with his infectious enthusiasm, has given plants from our Rocky Mountain region to the rest of the world. Congratulations Panayoti: the award could not have gone to anyone we admire more.

Brinsley Burbidge, Executive Director



Employee of the Month

The April Employee of the Month is Estee Fleming, Community Gardens Coordinator. Estee has developed a program to enhance Mr. McGregor's Garden and cultivated relationships between the Gardens and its community gardeners. She demonstrates leadership, initiative and a positive attitude and always goes the extra mile.



The Wild Side News from Chatfield

Bill Bevington



Birds of a feather flock to Chatfield.

May is a great time of year to wake up early to the singing of birds. On Sunday, May 7, people will flock to Chatfield Arboretum and herald in the new day with the sunrise singing of birds. Join other nature lovers at 6:30 a.m. for Dawn Chorus, an international day of bird appreciation. This event introduces a week of activities supporting local efforts to recognize and conserve migratory birds. These feathered travelers not only encounter treacherous obstacles along their flight paths from Latin America, but also rely on healthy ecosystems to sustain them along the way.

Everyone can play a part in the conservation of migratory birds. Even the smallest area can be used as a feeding and resting habitat. Examples of landscaping for wildlife can be seen at Denver Botanic Gardens and the Chatfield site. Classes are offered through Denver Botanic Gardens that cover wildlife landscaping as well as identifying birds in their natural habitats. Call Chatfield Arboretum at 303-973-3705 to register for Dawn Chorus, and call 303-370-8020 for more information on classes.

Jackie Sanderson, Naturalist



This year's Summer Concert Series is just weeks away.

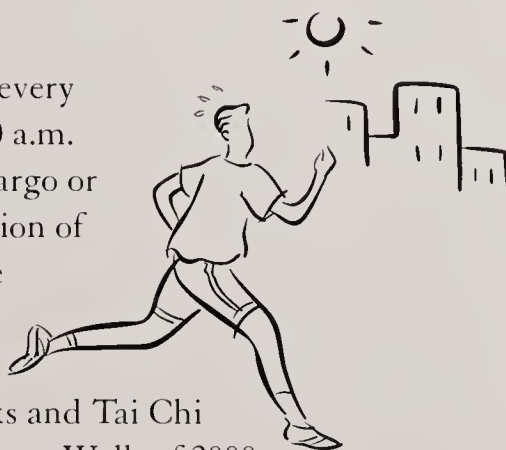
Summer Concert Series

Music and garden lovers alike will be dancing on the green at this year's Summer Concert Series! The Gardens' new concert promoter, Nobody In Particular Presents, has lined up an impressive list of entertainers. The series will kick-off with the ethereal music of Shawn Colvin on June 22. A new brochure that includes the full concert line-up was sent to members in mid-April. If you did not receive the brochure, or if you would like more information about concerts, please call 303-370-8021. The presenting sponsor of the Summer Concert Series is ING Security Life and the associate sponsors are Loews Giorgio Hotel and *The Denver Post*.

Make your concert experience even more memorable. Take advantage of a special offer from Loews Giorgio Hotel. The "Music Under The Stars" package for two to Denver Botanic Gardens' concert evenings includes a luxurious guest room, picnic basket for the concert, complimentary transportation to and from the Gardens and a continental breakfast. The cost for the package is \$139 and is based on availability. Please call 303-782-9300 for more information.

Fitness Walks

Start your day off right with flowers and fitness every Tuesday from June through August. From 7 to 8:30 a.m. enjoy a Sunrise Fitness Walk sponsored by Wells Fargo or Tai Chi classes sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons. It's a great opportunity to get some morning exercise while enjoying the Gardens. Photographers and artists are also encouraged to come enjoy the magical morning light. Fitness walks and Tai Chi classes are free and open to the public. The first Fitness Walk of 2000 will be kicked off by Denver Mayor Wellington E. Webb on June 6. More information will be included in the June *Green Thumb News*.



Plant and Book Sale reminder

Make sure the 51st Annual Plant and Book Sale is once again part of your spring gardening ritual. The sale will offer a superb collection of unusual plants, many of which are featured in the new and renovated garden designs at the Gardens. Members-only shopping hours are 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 12 and 8:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday, May 13. Plant Sale hours for the general public are on Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please refer to the April *Green Thumb News* insert, or call 303-370-8091.



See irises this month at the Gardens.

Intriguing iris

The American Iris Society is hosting two spring shows this May at the Gardens. A variety of irises will be on display, but do you know what to look for at an iris show? Look for the "Best Specimen of the Show," judged as the outstanding horticultural entry and the "Best Seedling," which is the most promising newly developed and still-to-be-introduced variety by a local hybridizer. See page 6 for more information on the shows held this May.

Cover Story: Romancing the plant

Plant exploration has a mysterious, even exotic quality to it: a vision of high adventure and thrilling discovery. Plant explorers risk life and limb in pursuit of horticultural treasures. However, more common than the heroic exploits of “Chinese” Wilson, George Forrest and Reginald Farrer are less romantic tales. Hours, months and years are spent researching plants and locales, seeking grants and preparing paperwork to justify expeditions. Permits and customs are a greater nemesis than menacing wildlife. There is the endless tedium of travel, discomfort and untimely rain or snow that damage seeds and make drying and cleaning seed an endless chore. The plant you yearn to find, the one you want, has been supplanted by a corn field. The seed you struggled to obtain refuses to germinate, or more often, was simply never sown. Political obstacles are also greater than ever. Violent anti-American governments rule much of Western and central Asia where the bulk of plants best suited to our Rocky Mountain climate originate. Virgin land is vanishing and goats and bulldozers take their unencumbered toll.

In Colorado, new plants don’t always mean exotics. Most native wildflowers have never been cultivated in urban gardens. The plants in our gardens are emblematic of the world’s wild places, both around the globe and close to home. Whenever I see an ice plant in a garden, I think of the wealth of that genera in South Africa. I remember driving deep into Chihuahua with Paul Maslin, when we discovered and brought back the only true yellow flowered phlox. I remember the hundreds of hikes



Phlox lutea, with yellow flowers is a plant treasure from Mexico.

taken through the years with friends and family and the visits to rare plant nurseries—all of which ended with learning about or acquiring some treasure.

Plant exploration, whether in the hills or in a garden center, is an act of discovery, celebrating nature’s boundless diversity. It is an art that stretches back to the very birth of horticulture, when hunters and gatherers found a better, bigger patch of some wild grain, gathered a handful to bring home and planted it in that very first garden. That simple act is responsible for civilization as we know it.

Panayoti Kelaidis, Curator of Plant Collections

Plants for the future—Plant Select® 2000



PRAIRIE JEWEL™ Penstemon, is a colorful “jewel.”

Of the 60 or more species of penstemons currently known from Colorado, *Penstemon grandiflorus* has the largest flowers. Few plants offer such reward to the water-smart gardener. In a well-watered landscape *Penstemon grandiflorus* will bloom spectacularly, but live a short life. With less water, the performance will be less grand but the life span will extend for a decade or more. Mary Ann Heacock, one of Colorado’s premier plant people developed the PRAIRIE JEWEL™ strain that is featured as a Plant Select® designation this year. For several decades she grew many strains of

Penstemon grandiflorus that varied from pure white, to lavender and soft pink to a near red and maroon. The combination of colors produces a truly jewel-like display that lasts through much of the early summer. The elegant flowers combined with the beautiful basal foliage makes for a stunning presentation that thrives among rocks, buffalo grass or drier borders. This summer, invite one of Colorado’s most rare and dazzling wildflowers into your garden.

The genius of Gertrude Jekyll is in the Gardens

Rendering by Patrick Mangan



A new border planned for the Gardens, featuring the vibrant color red, will demonstrate the style of Gertrude Jekyll.

The adage, “every picture tells a story,” applies to gardens, whether in picture form, or as experienced live and in person. Five of the new or renovated gardens at Denver Botanic Gardens have a common story. The story begins a little over a hundred years ago, in another part of the world. The common thread is a garden designer named Gertrude Jekyll.

As a young woman, Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932), trained in various art techniques including silver working, embroidery and painting. These were the art forms encouraged for women by leaders such as William Morris of the Arts and Crafts movement underway in England during that time. The movement based its ideas on the principle that nature was the antidote to the havoc the industrial revolution had wrought. Not surprisingly, residential architecture and garden design were concerns of the Arts and Crafts movement. According to legend, Jekyll developed myopia, which caused her to abandon painting and other feminine endeavors. Instead, she turned her attention to the garden.

What Jekyll did with her garden designs had never been done before. Inspired by her roots in the Arts and Crafts movement, Jekyll observed and photographed the indigenous landscape and vernacular materials of the local working class. Weathered wood, hand-wrought local sandstone bricks and the casual beauty of the perennial flower were given preference over the expansive turf, classical architectural motifs and ornate patterns of bedding plants that were the norm for wealthy Victorian estates.

Jekyll used and adapted the skills she learned as a young artisan of metal, fiber and paint into her garden designs. Perhaps most studied in her garden designs is the use of color interactions. Jekyll employed the colors of perennial flowers as though they were paint. For example, in one of her borders at her home, Jekyll used cool colors, including white, warm white, palest tints of pink and gray, gray blue and then pale blue, at either end to contain and compress the composition. Progressively more saturated color followed, such as pale yellow to strong yellow, orange and mahogany dotted with lavender, purple and pink for contrast, culminating in a center ablaze with scarlet and crimson.

Likewise, at Denver Botanic Gardens, Jekyll’s concern for the expression of the locale through painterly techniques is captured in the perennial gardens. The O’Fallon Perennial Walk is an orchestra of texture and color. The renovated Lilac Garden features a host of companion perennial plants in a controlled color scheme drawing from the blooms of the lilac: lavender, pale yellow and silver. The color focus of the red border is a giveaway to what will be a monochromatic scheme, a favorite device of Jekyll’s. One of the new perennial gardens is comprised of perennial plants divided into four separate color zones: red, pink, chartreuse and silver, and finally, a mixture of all colors!

Long live the flower-power of Gertrude Jekyll—a legacy that promises a colorful future in the Gardens.

Julie Loquidis, Perennials Curator

May

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY



Rare Plant Auction, May 12

Come to the special members-only Plant and Book Sale shopping hours on Friday, May 12 from 3 to 7 p.m. and enjoy the first ever Rare Plant Auction at 6 p.m. The auction will feature a unique selection of rare plants for indoor and outdoor gardens. A highlight will be an authentic, documented offspring of a Johnny Appleseed tree originally planted in 1821. For more information, call 303-370-8091.

American Iris Society Show, May 14

The American Iris Society's Early Spring-flowering Iris Show on Mother's Day will be located just inside the Gardens' entrance. It will be open to the public immediately after judging and feature standard and miniature dwarf bearded and intermediate bearded varieties. Entrance is included with admission to the Gardens. Contact Rob Stetson, 303-733-5709 for more information.

Guild Open House, May 23

Denver Botanic Gardens' Guild will host a new member open house Tuesday, May 23 at 10 a.m. Learn about the Guild and the work it does for the Gardens. To receive an invitation please call June Brown at 303-770-7025.

Women's Expo, May 24

Join the American Heart Society for a women's expo from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24. A fitness walk, health screening tests, advice on health-smart issues and demonstrations of healthy cooking will be provided. The cost is \$35. Register by May 12 by calling 303-369-5433.

American Iris Society Show, May 27, 28

A High Season Iris Show, hosted by the American Iris Society, will take place on Saturday, May 27 from 12 to 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. The show will feature several varieties and collections, including tall and intermediate bearded, arilbred, classics, antiques and heirlooms. Entrance is included with admission to the Gardens. For information contact Rob Stetson, 303-733-5709.

KEY FOR CALENDAR

Bold Green type = Gardens events
(V) = Volunteers are needed.
Call 303.370.8049.

Bold black type = Plant Society events
Regular black type = Classes
(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Arboretum
⊗ = Free to members

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Gardens events 303.370.8187
Plant Society events 303.370.8097



7

14

American Iris Society Show ⊗

21

Begonia Society meeting
Colorado Water Garden
Society meeting

28

American Iris Society Show ⊗
Story Time in Mr. McGregor's
Garden

1

Free Day at York Street



8

15

22

Mycological Society meeting
Ultra Violet Society meeting

29

2

Bonsai Society meeting

9

Cactus Society meeting

16

Bonsai Society meeting

23

Applied Plant Taxonomy*

30

BirdHaus2000



**More than 250 handcrafted
birdhouses to be auctioned!**

Join us for the 6th annual BirdHaus Bash Garden **Thursday, June 15,**

5:30 p.m. — Silent Auction opens
(concludes following live auction)
250 birdhouses up for bid.



7:15 p.m. — Live Auction
The presentation of the Best of Show award and
eight stunning birdhouses to be auctioned.



For information or to make

Annual Open Party and Auction 5:30 p.m.



\$20 per person. Children 16 & younger \$10.

Food and drink by Three Tomatoes Catering
and the Wynkoop Brewing Company.



All proceeds benefit Denver Botanic Gardens'
Youth Education Programs.

Reservations, call 303-370-8091.

BirdHaus Bash Committee

Andrean Andrus

Kim Buck

Amy

Amy Cheslin

Britton Crosby

Barbara Gallagher

Mimi Hardendorf

Stephanie Kelso

Marion Kingdon

Tanya Mathews

Beth McBride

Nicolle McKinney

Ana Quintana

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Christine Turner

Stanley Turner

Carolyn Vaneck

Nancy Wardell

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WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

3

4

5

Free Day & 11 a.m. Tour
Chatfield Arboretum



6

Youth Conservation Speaker
Series: Paul Gruchow
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers mtg.

10

11

Denver Rose Society meeting

12

York Street Gardens closed
Members-only Plant and Book Sale
3 to 7 p.m.



13

Members-only Plant and Book Sale
8:30 to 10 a.m.
Plant and Book Sale
open to the public
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



17

North American Rock Garden
Society meeting
Herb Society meeting

18

19

20

Rocky Mountain African Violet
Council meeting
High Country Judges meeting

24

American Heart Association
Women's Expo
24- 6/2 Travel Adventure:
The Impressionist Road for Artists

25

Gardeners of America meeting
African Violet Society meeting

26

27

American Iris Society Show
Science Investigation with
Mr. McGregor
Bonsai Society workshop

31

Mt. Goliath Guide Training*



Concert vouchers and ticket sales

Current members at the Botanist Club level and above received a Summer Concert Series brochure and vouchers in the mail in mid-April. To upgrade your membership and receive the free ticket vouchers, or to inquire about vouchers not received, please call the membership office at 303-370-8029.

Before May 8, vouchers may be redeemed by mail using the order form in the concert brochure. After May 8, you can continue to redeem your vouchers by mail or you can come to the Gardens' main gate at 1005 York Street.

Senior Early Morning Strolls

Mark your calendars for Senior Early Morning Strolls which will take place June 7, July 5 and August 2 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Each senior member may bring a friend along for good exercise and good company in the beauty of the Gardens. Afterwards sip a hot, delicious cup of coffee—free. Your membership card is your admission ticket.



Plant and Book Sale

To better serve members, members-only Plant and Book Sale hours have been expanded this year. Please remember that each membership card will admit ONE person to the Plant and Book Sale members-only hours from 3 to 7 p.m. on Friday, May 12 and 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 13. Exceptions will be made for senior or disabled members who may each bring one additional person to assist them. Please refer to the April *Green Thumb News* insert for more information.

Every day is Mother's Day in May!

When you buy a new gift membership for mom during the month of May, she will also receive a coupon good for her choice of soft drink, latte or cappuccino at the Gardens' snack cart, Taste Buds. In addition, the drink will come in a free insulated, reusable green Denver Botanic Gardens travel mug. Come enjoy Mother's Day with mom any day in May!



DBG TRAVEL ADVENTURES

Nova Scotia Fall Hiker

**Cape Breton & the Bay of Fundy
September 14 to 21, 2000**

Steeped in Celtic influence, Nova Scotia is a wonderful fall destination. Heading north out of Halifax, the first stop is near the town of Canos to hike the sea-side trails overlooking the Atlantic. The next few days will be spent on Cape Breton Island. From blueberry-lined trails, to spectacular coastal walks, the famous Cabot Trail offers many wonderful hikes.

Lodging will be at the famous Keltic Lodge which has great views of the ocean. The last stop is Wolfville, for a grand finale hike to the Bay of Fundy where some of the highest tides in the world occur.

The price of this 8-day tour is \$1695 per person and includes: lodging, all meals, ground transportation, activities and guiding services. A \$400 deposit is required. The tour is limited to 15 participants.

This trip is rated "moderate." A variety of hiking trails usually exist for all abilities. Hikes range from 4-6 miles per day. More miles per day are available.

Other Denver Botanic Gardens tour destinations include: France, Amazon, Winter Park, Canadian Rockies, China and New Zealand. These trips are filling fast. Call Pam Rathke, Travel Coordinator at the Gardens, for more information or to make reservations, 303-370-8051.



Video award

Havey Productions recently won a Telly Award in the fundraising category for Denver Botanic Gardens' video presentation, "Circle of Life." Originating as a six-projector multi-image production, the show was transferred to video for use in fundraising and community outreach. Executive Director Dr. Brinsley Burbidge acknowledged the show as "the best production of its type I have ever seen."

The Telly Awards is a well-known and highly respected national competition that includes film and video productions as well as non-network TV programming. It is one of the most sought-after awards in the film and video industry. Since the competition represents the best of the best, earning Telly recognition is a significant creative achievement. Jim Havey photographs the Gardens on a regular basis and is responsible for many of the photos used in the Gardens' publications, including the *Green Thumb News*, *Mountain, Plain and Garden* and the 2000 Calendar. Denver Botanic Gardens would like to thank and congratulate Havey Productions!



Photo©Jim Havey

A photo of the Monet Garden painted a perfect picture for "Circle of Life."

Help the Gardens grow "the best garden ever!"

Denver Botanic Gardens' expert horticulture team has designed spectacular gardens for you to enjoy this summer. Their ideas are creative and exciting, but to develop them to their full potential, the Gardens needs your support. Just imagine coming to the Gardens and not only seeing new growth, but seeing new gardens as well! Think of the pride and satisfaction you will feel as you enjoy the beautiful new gardens and know you were a part of developing "the best garden ever!"

Please send your special tax-deductible gift today to: Growing "the best garden ever!" Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206.

Four Seasons members help the Gardens bloom

Because of their generous gifts to the Gardens, members of the Four Seasons Society and above can look forward to special benefits this summer. In April, the high-level members enjoyed the "Walk with Curators, Talk With Friends" event that included behind-the-scenes tours of Denver Botanic Gardens' award-winning gardens. Four Seasons members will also be invited to participate in an exclusive Summer Garden Tour of private homes and gardens in the Gardens' neighboring communities. The Pre-Concert Picnic, sponsored by Northern Trust Bank of Colorado, will be a fun time to catch up with friends and enjoy delicious food before an outdoor concert. As always, Four Seasons members and above are treated to hassle-free parking in the Waring House lot for all summer concerts.

To join the Four Seasons Society, please contact Jennifer Darling at 303-370-8027.

Memorials and Tributes

In memory of W. Ashton Lee

Mr. and Mrs. David Simmon

In memory of Barkley Clanahan

Ms. Muriel S. Phipps

Ms. Marjorie S. Tweedy

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin D. Trevor

Dr. and Mrs. William H. Wilson

In memory of Deane Robertson

Ms. Phyllis Van Engen

In memory of DeDe Gorin

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Johnston

In memory of Jenny Falkhaus

Mr. and Mrs. David Gardner

In memory of Will Barber

Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens

In memory of Jim Hohlt

Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens

In memory of Lincoln D. Wallbank

Mrs. Knobby Brown

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Arnold

In memory of Mary Ellen Owen

Ms. Lois Dean

In memory of Earleen Dale Bolie

Ms. Phyllis Van Engen

In memory of David Drage

Mr. William Brightfelt

Ms. Julie Mangum

Ms. Sally Clements

In memory of Connie Ankelein

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Sanders

In memory of Luella Takamin

Ronald, Kolleen, & Kory Rudman



The Garden Plot

From the DBG Library

Explorer on demand

Some plants are so beautiful you want them around you always. Unfortunately, not all plants will grow in Colorado. I thought that this was true for *dieramas*. *Dieramas* are graceful, ever-green perennials from South Africa. Their foliage is thin and grass-like, but their flowers rise above the foliage on arching stems and open as delicate clusters of pink bells swaying gently in a breeze. One of their common names is Angel's Fishing Rod. The seeds follow as delicate round packages on those same arching stems.

I first came to know *dieramas* through Eric Nagata, a brilliant Ikebana flower arranger. They often showed up in his arrange-

ments and I have desired them as garden plants ever since. A few years ago, Colorado had never seen a *dierama* live through the winter outdoors. When I discovered that Denver Botanic Gardens' Plant Collections Curator, Panayoti Kelaidis, was traveling to South Africa in search of many different types of hardy plants, I asked him to look for *dieramas*. And yes, he found them!

Denver Botanic Gardens and its partners are now growing plants of five different species of *dieramas*. These species come from the high altitude areas of South Africa, which are more similar to the climate of Colorado. Of course, the *dieramas* came to this country as seed, so we are waiting like expectant parents for our children to show themselves off. My *Dierama dracomontanum* has bloomed for two years now, but the plant needs more years of growth to become magnificent. I am willing to wait though, because the potential for awe-inspiring beauty is so great. You can see the small fledgelings in both the Rock Alpine Garden and the O'Fallon Perennial Walk at Denver Botanic Gardens. Thanks to my plant explorer on demand!

Susan Eubank, Librarian



Dierama dracomontanum.

Paul Martin

What's growing on for kids this summer?

Young people from preschool to high school will find fun summer programs at Denver Botanic Gardens this year. Budding artists, young horticulturists, future entomologists and nature adventurers of all sorts can choose from a wide selection of classes from drop-in Saturday afternoons to week-long courses. For further information on youth programs, call 303-370-8020.

Free weekends at Mr. McGregor's

Stop by Mr. McGregor's Pick and Plant Garden on Saturdays from May 27 to September 2 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and see what you can find. Mr. McGregor will be in the garden helping children of all ages explore the natural world. Watch for birds, dig for worms and pick and plant fresh garden vegetables and flowers.

On Sunday afternoons from May 28 through September 3 at 2 p.m., story tellers will enchant young visitors with read-aloud nature stories in Mr. McGregor's Story Time Tipi. Weekends with Mr. McGregor are free and no reservations are required. Mr. McGregor's Garden is supported by a grant from the Denver Urban Renewal Partnership.

Mountainous opportunity

This summer, become a Mt. Goliath guide and lead tours along the M. Walter Pesman Trail. The trail, on Mt. Evans, features wildflowers and animals amidst mountain vistas and bristlecone pine trees. Become a volunteer guide and make a difference. Training begins May 31 and volunteers are needed from July 11 through July 27. For information or to register for training, call 303-370-8020.

Book in the Helen Fowler Library used for this article:

Hilliard, O.M. & Burt, B.L. 1991. *Dierama: The Hairbells of Africa*. Acorn Books, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Teaching teachers today to teach students tomorrow

The 16,000 students who visited Denver Botanic Gardens on field trips in 1999 were not the only ones to hear the Gardens' message of environmental awareness and stewardship. Thousands more students benefited because their teachers participated in the Environmental Educator Certificate program.

Whether they are new to Colorado and its diverse ecosystems, trained in social studies and suddenly finding themselves teaching science or simply looking for new ways to make the natural world exciting, teachers find that the Environmental Educator courses give them information they need. The classes are designed specifically for busy teachers. All courses include activities correlated to the Colorado State Model Content Standards, provide "class-ready" teaching materials and are offered for credit through the Colorado School of Mines.

Teaching teachers expands the reach of Denver Botanic Gardens' educational programs. From the 254 registrations in the program in 1998 and 1999, thousands of students are now benefiting from current information, hands-on science techniques and a multi-disciplinary approach to science taught in



Photo©Jim Havey

Teacher and Gardens volunteer Betty Washington demonstrates that environmental education can be integrated in and out of the classroom.

the program. After this year's courses (offered in June and July) even more students will calculate their ecological footprint, write in their naturalist journals and understand the importance of bees. If you or someone you know would like to learn ways to integrate environmental education into the classroom, call 303-370-8020.

Learn to draw from nature!

Denver Botanic Gardens will offer classes this summer that teach young people how to really see nature and then draw what they see. With the help of professional botanical artist teachers, students will explore everything from waterlilies to wildflowers at the Gardens. These fun, hands-on classes will provide the time and place to make great art. No previous experience is required, but an interest in drawing, learning and having fun is!

The classes are offered throughout the summer. Pick what's best for you by choosing a class that is perfect for your education level. For more information on classes and to register, call 303-370-8020.



Botanical illustration by Emily Fletcher.

A World of Plants!

Coming soon children ages six to 12 will have an opportunity for weekday fun during the World of Plants program. This program will include educational and entertaining activities that will be offered every Monday through Friday, June 19 through August 11, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Complimentary adult programs will also be offered for interested parents. Each day a different adventure awaits, so you can come once or come each day! Pick your favorite day to participate in a World of Plants: Mondays, Plant Investigators; Tuesdays, Kids with Dirty Hands; Wednesdays, Tropical Adventure; Thursdays, Walk on the Wild Side; Fridays, Around the World in a Garden.

Don't miss Denver Botanic Gardens this summer where a world of plants awaits and something is always growing on! Call 303-370-8020 for more information or to register.

Denver Botanic Gardens
 909 York Street
 Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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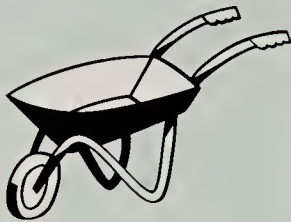
Denver Botanic Gardens 51st Annual
 Plant and Book Sale, May 12 and 13



Members-only hours:

Friday, May 12, 3 to 7 p.m.
 Saturday, May 13, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Only one person per membership card
 will be admitted to the members-only
 shopping hours. Senior and physically
 challenged members may bring a sec-
 ond person to assist with purchases.



**Remember to bring
 your own wagon for
 transporting plants.**



Within the sale “plant holding
 areas” will be offered. If your wagon
 or cart is overflowing, simply let us
 babysit your plants while you contin-
 ue to browse. Volunteers will assist
 you at check-out.



**Don't miss the Rare
 Plant Auction Friday,
 May 12, 6 p.m. See
 page 6 for details.**

**Denver Botanic Gardens
 will be closed Friday, May 12
 until 3 p.m. when members-
 only shopping hours begin.**

Public Plant Sale Hours:
 Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For information call 303-370-8091.

Green Thumb News

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 Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 with extended hours May-September
General information **303-331-4000**
 TDD 303-370-8032
 Dr. Green plant information 303-370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.
 Planttalk (24-hour) 1-888-666-3063
recorded plant information
 Gift Shop 303-331-4009
 Helen Fowler Library 303-370-8014
Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices
Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Address changes 303-370-8060
 Class registration 303-370-8020
 Facility rental 303-370-8012
Green Thumb News 303-356-3325
 Guided tours 303-370-8019
 Job Hotline 303-370-8000
 Membership services 303-370-8029
 Security, emergencies 303-370-8017
 Special events information 303-370-8187
 Development 303-370-8055
 Volunteering 303-370-8049
Chatfield Arboretum **303-973-3705**
Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are estab-
 lished and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for
 the people of the City and County of Denver and for the gener-
 al public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation
 Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds
 from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which
 enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the qual-
 ity of programs and exhibits.

On the cover: China, Panayoti Kelaidis

Green Thumb News

June 2000



Gardens of the World
See what all the dirt's about
Cover Story on page 4





News

from the Executive Director



Water lilies carpet the pond of the Monet Garden.

Under the leadership of Director of Horticulture Rob Proctor, the horticulture team is charging ahead with a whole mass of improvements throughout the Gardens. Pay a visit to the area adjacent to our successful *Monet Garden* and you will see the French theme extended to embrace *Le Café Monet*, a French-style sidewalk café seating area from which you can really enjoy the water lilies that carpet the pond. Nearby we extend the exuberant use of plants to create a tropical theme in *Paradise Revisited*. Look further and you will find that almost every part of the garden is changing in a new and exciting way.

And here I add a note of real gratitude. Many of the horticultural projects are over and above what we can afford in this year's budget. Earlier this year Rob made a presentation to our Board of Trustees, enthusiastically explaining just how wonderful the gardens would be if we could find some more funds. Some of our Trustees were so taken with the project that they made voluntary contributions to get these new gardens underway. Thank you! We are not there yet and we still have a number of gardens looking for sponsors. If you would like to help us become the most spectacular garden in the country by the time of our birthday in 2001, please give us a call.

Brinsley Burbidge, Executive Director



Employee of the Month

Congratulations to May's Employee of the Month, Mieke Thorson, Special Events Supervisor. No matter how busy or stressed she is, Mieke is always happy, inventive and a pleasure to work with. Over the past few months, this positive attitude was maintained even as she took on extra responsibilities while the department was short staffed at an extremely hectic time of year.



The Wild Side

News from Chatfield



Fox squirrels have been able to find their own food along the bottom land of Deer Creek and in the urban landscape of Denver for a long time. They eat the catkins and young leaves of cottonwoods, as well as buds, twigs, nuts and berries of other native and ornamental plants. So, what could be wrong with putting out a little food to help wildlife? Several things could go wrong that are not only harmful to humans, but to animals as well. Recently, a very friendly female squirrel began to seek handouts outside the Polly Steele Nature Center at Chatfield. As her aggressive search for a hand-out became potentially more harmful, it was decided that she should be relocated in order to keep her and others safe.

Although it is easy to think that wild animals are cute and have a desire to be hand-fed, everyone must remember that it is important to give wildlife the respect that they deserve. "Too Close for Comfort" brochures from the Colorado Division of Wildlife are available at Chatfield's visitor center and the Gardens offers classes that teach information on what you can plant in your garden to naturally feed and shelter wildlife. Please check the Gardens' Education Catalog or call, 303-973-3705 for more information.

Jackie Sanderson, Naturalist



See a vast array of birdhouses at the BirdHaus Bash.

BirdHaus Bash

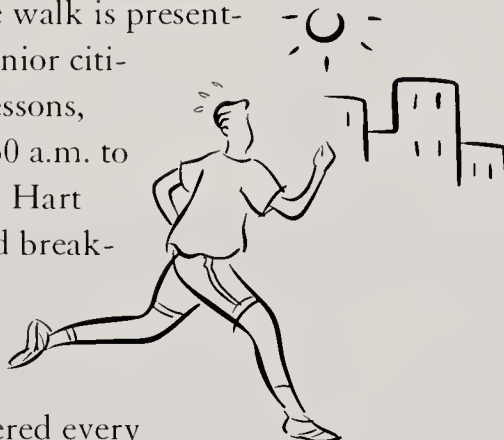
Don't miss your opportunity to bid on more than 200 birdhouses at the annual BirdHaus Bash Garden Party and Auction. Enjoy an exciting evening and make a contribution at the same time, as proceeds from the BirdHaus Bash benefit programs at the Gardens. The event takes place June 15 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Food and drink will be provided by Three Tomatoes Catering and Wynkoop Brewery. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 16 and younger. Make your reservations before June 12 by calling 303-370-8091.

The whimsical and creative birdhouses auctioned at the BirdHaus Bash help to kick-off the summer as they are displayed at the Gardens from June 16 through July 9. See both outdoor and indoor birdhouses of all shapes, sizes and colors and get ideas about what you want to enter in next year's BirdHaus Bash! The associate sponsors of BirdHaus Bash are 9News, People's Choice Transportation and *The Denver Post*. The auction is supported by Colorado Birdseed Packaging Company, Holland & Hart LLP, Moli-Tron Company Inc., Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, Turner Public Relations, Vectra Bank and Wynkoop Brewing Company.

Spring Into Summer With a Sunrise Fitness Walk

The first Sunrise Fitness Walk of 2000 will be kicked-off on June 6 with the annual "Spring Into Health and the Mayor's Walk." The walk is presented by Mayor Wellington E. Webb and focuses on senior citizens and health awareness. There will be Tai Chi lessons, yoga, chair massages and health screenings from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. For a small fee of \$6, visitors can hear Ellen Hart Pena give the keynote speech and also enjoy a boxed breakfast. Pick up a registration form at any Denver Recreation Center or the Gardens.

After the "Spring Into Health and the Mayor's Walk" on June 6, Sunrise Fitness Walks will be offered every Tuesday in June, July and August from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Enjoy a Sunrise Fitness Walk sponsored by Wells Fargo or Tai Chi classes sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons. Both are free and open to the public.



Convenient Cuisine

Three Tomatoes Catering is now serving lunch items for the summer at the Tomato Garden Café every day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Beverages and snacks can also be purchased during the Gardens' summer concerts or dinners may be pre-ordered at least two days before a concert by calling 303-433-3332 or via e-mail at threetomatoes@usa.net. The new *Le Café Monet* located adjacent to the *Monet Garden* will also serve snacks and beverages Wednesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday through Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the Plant and Book Sale a success!
If you would like to volunteer at the Gardens, please call 303-370-8049.

Amazing Volunteer Opportunity

How would you like to contribute to one of our most fun and innovative projects yet? We are looking for individuals and groups to help us prepare, plant and maintain a gigantic corn maze at Chatfield! The maze will be open to the public from September 2 through October 31. Are you interested? Call 303-973-3705 for more information and to volunteer.

Botanical Bliss

Sunrise or sunset, the Gardens expanded summer hours offer the perfect time to enjoy the new and renovated Gardens of the World, including the *Monet Garden* and *PlantAsia*. Paint, photograph or simply relax and bask in the beauty and serenity of the Gardens Saturday through Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Wednesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cover Story: Gardens of the World

Throughout history many cultures have used the visual concepts of “garden” as a symbol of balance between nature and humankind. Around the world, gardens are considered sanctuaries where harmony, diversity and beauty prevail. As we enter a new century, our world is transformed by integrated technologies that connect the global community together as never before. This summer, a visit to Denver Botanic Gardens takes you on a journey through Gardens of the World. Collections and displays of plants from around the world are the natural connections that weave the fabrics of environment and culture into the thematic adventure of Gardens of the World.


Our newly renovated gardens encompass a tremendous paradox: each and every garden is unique and individual, while at the same time, each and every garden is a microcosm of the world. Blue spruce that come from Colorado mountains may grow alongside birches from Sweden, viburnums from China, tulips from central Asia, kniphofias from South Africa and annuals from tropical climates everywhere. Our wild gardens are similarly diverse. On the tundra of Mt. Goliath you will find moss campion (*Silene acaulis*) that is virtually identical to what you would find growing in the Alps or on the north slope of Alaska. Our native shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*) grows just as abundantly in the Himalayas and other mountains across the northern hemisphere.

Beyond the plants, it is apparent that individual styles of gardening practiced in our region reflect the wide spectrum of

people who live here. Pioneer immigrants brought not only their favorite plants, but also ways of combining them. The familiar perennial border is very much an expression of Western European traditions, just as the austere elegance of an Asian garden celebrates the subtle art of that culture. These reflections of diversity define our membership and visitors, who come from near and far. Although native plants and native gardens have become an increasingly prominent feature at Denver Botanic Gardens, inspiration can also be found in time-honored forms that lay claim to distant shores, times and places.

A visit to the Gardens of the World is an escape, a magic carpet ride that takes you all around the world. Delight in *PlantAsia*, a majestic garden featuring peonies and other plants that might be

encountered in Asia. Find a culinary masterpiece of vegetables, herbs and edible flowers in the *French Kitchen Garden* located adjacent to the *Monet Garden*, where impressionistic masses of water lilies bloom as exuberantly as in Giverny. Go *Down Under* and imagine yourself as far away as Australia or New Zealand.

Denver Botanic Gardens is a world garden, not just because it contains plants from every corner of the world, but also because the plants provide a web of connection. An extraordinary range of garden magic transports the visitor through the medium of art itself to the far corners of the gardening world. 



Photo©Jim Havey

See the Japanese Garden and other Gardens of the World at Denver Botanic Gardens.

Propagating Plants

Enormous numbers of plants fill every inch of garden space at Denver Botanic Gardens this summer. Nearly every garden on the grounds is bursting with flower and foliage as the Gardens transform into the Gardens of the World. Where are all these plants coming from, you ask? Many have been grown below glass here at the Gardens under the watchful eye of Propagation Specialist Holly Amador. Holly joined the horticulture team this year bringing nearly 15 years of experience growing plants. She works with a diverse selection of material, including seeds, cuttings and divisions from distributors around the world, that materialize into mature plants for use indoors as well as outside.

Holly has learned that propagating plants successfully requires patience, timing and good organization. Detailed records guide the history of planting, germination, rooting and other growth milestones that occur in the process of growing plants. Her skill in this enterprise is evident this summer as the more than 100,000 individual plants she has grown flourish in borders, beds and the hundreds of containers that now accent every corner of the grounds.

Denver Botanic Gardens' collections of plants are increasing and diversifying as never before. They represent a wealth of plants from all corners of the globe in our presentation of Gardens of the World. The behind-the-scenes work of propagation is an essential component of this on going effort.



Behind-the-scenes Holly Amador is a propagating prodigy.



James E. Klett

Princess Kay Plum displays bright white, double blossoms in spring.

Plants for the Future – Plant Select® 2000

Small ornamental trees are very useful in residential landscapes. They provide the homeowner landscape interest all year and their smaller size means less maintenance and worry about the plant growing beyond the scale of the garden. Plant Select® 2000 offers *Prunus nigra* 'Princess Kay Plum' as a recommended plant suitable for a wide range of landscape situations. Princess Kay Plum is a relatively fast-growing flowering tree that will reach a mature height of 15 to 20 feet with an oval-shaped crown that spreads to around 15 feet.

Introduced into cultivation by the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Princess Kay Plum was discovered growing in the wild in Itasca County, Minnesota, by Catherine Nylund. The tree is glorious in the spring with its display of double white flowers. Attractive foliage follows and is set off in august with oval-shaped red fruit. As autumn arrives, the foliage turns a spectacular red. The smooth, dark brown bark is nearly black in appearance and features very prominent lenticels (raised pores on the surface of the bark) that, in combination, add visual interest through the winter. Princess Kay Plum will grow well in sun or part shade in average garden soil with moderate watering. It is hardy up to an elevation of 7,000 feet. This attractive small tree adds appeal to the garden all year and can be seen in the Romantic Gardens.

Water Garden Society Plant Sale, June 4

The Colorado Water Garden Society's plant sale will be on Sunday, June 4 from 10 a.m. until "sold out" at the Gardens' Morrison Center. Lilies, marginal and bog plant varieties and pond care information will be available. Entrance is included with admission to the Gardens. Call Cindy Thomas for information, 303-755-1885.

Old Garden Roses Display, June 11

The Denver Rose Society will host a display from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, June 11 at the Gardens' Morrison Center. Different types of roses including early-blooming shrub roses will be on display and experts will be on hand to answer questions. The display is included with admission to the Gardens. Call Stan Barrett for information, 303-985-1408.

Bonsai Society Show and Sale, June 17, 18

The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society will hold its Year 2000 Bonsai Show and Exhibit on Father's Day weekend. Bonsai trees will be on display, bonsai plants and supplies will be for sale and experts will answer questions. The event is included with admission to the Gardens and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 17 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 18. Call Stan Tarum for information, 303-987-0239.

Landscaping and Gardening with Rocky Mountain Native Plants, June 23

Join several garden experts, including Panayoti Kelaidis, plant collections curator at Denver Botanic Gardens, for this symposium presented by the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and Denver Botanic Gardens. Enhance your knowledge about native plants and their benefits. The cost is \$40 for members and \$45 for nonmembers. For more information or to register call Audrey Edwards, 303-756-9692.

Colorado Watercolor Society Show and Sale, June 27 through July 9

This show will feature high-quality watercolor artwork. Both framed and unframed pieces will be available for sale. The event is included with admission to the Gardens and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended summer hours from Saturday through Tuesday. Call Jackie McFarland for information, 303-431-2037.

KEY FOR CALENDAR

Bold yellow type = Gardens events


(V) = Volunteers are needed.

Call 303.370.8049.

Bold black type = Plant Society events

Regular black type = Classes

(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Arboretum

 = Free to members

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Gardens events 303.370.8187

Plant Society events 303.370.8097



4

Colorado Water Garden Society Plant Sale

Story Time in Mr. McGregor's Garden

Gardens of the World Tours 

5

Free day at York Street

A Fast Start to Drawing

Summer Flowers*

Beginning Bonsai*

Mixing Colors for Artists*



SCFD
Scientific & Cultural
Facilities District

6

"Spring Into Health and the Mayor's Walk" Sunrise Fitness Walk

Bonsai Society meeting

11

Denver Rose Society Old Garden Roses Display

Japanese Tea Ceremony*

Story Time in Mr. McGregor's Garden

Gardens of the World Tours 

12

Mycological Society meeting

Wetlands Institute*

13

Sunrise Fitness Walk Cactus Society meeting

Passionate Gardening*

18

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Show and Sale

Story Time in Mr. McGregor's Garden

Gardens of the World Tours 

19

Art Meets Science*

Botany in the Biomes of Colorado*

Learning to Draw*

Plant Investigators*

20

Sunrise Fitness Walk Bonsai Society meeting

Native Plant & Wildflowers in the Landscape*

Kids With Dirty Hands*

25

Story Time in Mr. McGregor's Garden

Gardens of the World Tours 

Close-up Flower Photography*

Japanese Tea Ceremony*

26

Environmental Science in the City*

Plant Investigators*

27

Sunrise Fitness Walk 6/27-7/9 Colorado Watercolor Society Show and Sale

Learning to Draw Flowers in

Kids With Dirty Hands*



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2000

Annuals & Perennials

- 1043 Alpine ivy geraniums
- 1044 Amaranths
- 1029 Annual flowering vines
- 1005 Annuals
- 1006 Bulbs: alliums
- 1007 Bulbs: bed preparation
- 1008 Bulbs: colchicum
- 1009 Bulbs: fall flowering crocus
- 1038 Bulbs: fertilizing
- 1010 Bulbs: maintaining
- 1011 Bulbs: selecting
- 1012 Bulbs: spring flowering
- 1013 Bulbs: summer flowering
- 1053 Catmint
- 1045 Clematis
- 1031 Columbine
- 1001 Container gardening: basics
- 1032 Daylily
- 1014 Fall asters
- 1049 Four-o'clock
- 1033 Hosta
- 1041 Iris
- 1047 Italian kitchen garden plants
- 1015 Lavender
- 1048 Leadwort
- 1036 Marigold
- 1039 Mountain perennials: choosing
- 1040 Mountain perennials: location
- 1037 Oriental poppy
- 1002 Ornamental grasses
- 1030 Pansy
- 1042 Peony
- 1016 Perennials: for the rock garden
- 1017 Perennials: how & when to plant
- 1018 Perennials: how to divide
- 1019 Perennials: maintaining
- 1020 Perennials: winterizing
- 1035 Petunia
- 1003 Planning & plants for an herb garden
- 1052 Roy Davidson pulmonaria
- 1050 Russian sage
- 1046 Sedum
- 1021 Shade gardens: annuals
- 1022 Shade gardens: ground covers
- 1054 Shade gardens: soil preparation
- 1034 Starting seeds indoors
- 1004 Sunflowers
- 1051 Sunset hyssop
- 1023 Water gardening: in containers
- 1024 Water gardening: introduction
- 1025 Water gardening: plant recommendations
- 1026 Water gardening: planting aquatic plants
- 1027 Water gardening: winterizing water lilies
- 1028 Winter-hardy cacti

Design

- 1121 Butterfly gardens
- 1109 Challenging areas
- 1106 Color in the rock garden
- 1101 Colorado garden style
- 1113 Combining colors
- 1102 Container gardening: containers
- 1114 Container gardening: designing
- 1103 Design considerations
- 1115 Designing a rock garden
- 1126 Designing for shade
- 1124 Flower bed dimensions
- 1123 Formal residential design
- 1116 Front entry design
- 1127 Kinds of shade
- 1104 Landscape lighting
- 1105 Landscaping & the law
- 1117 Retaining walls: basics
- 1118 Retaining walls: design considerations
- 1107 Selecting a designer
- 1119 Selecting plants
- 1108 Shade garden perennials
- 1125 Shade gardening
- 1120 Tree placement tips
- 1110 Using color in the landscape
- 1111 Using hot colors or pastels
- 1122 Visual screens
- 1112 Water considerations

Fruits

- 1201 Apples
- 1209 Apricots
- 1202 Cherries
- 1214 Currants
- 1212 Elderberries
- 1216 Fertilizing fruit trees
- 1215 Gooseberries
- 1203 Grapes
- 1204 Peaches
- 1205 Pears
- 1206 Plums
- 1210 Pruning mature trees
- 1207 Raspberries
- 1213 Serviceberries
- 1208 Strawberries
- 1211 Training young trees

Houseplants

- 1301 African violet
- 1302 Aluminum & artillery plants
- 1303 Amaryllis
- 1304 Avocado
- 1334 Azalea, cinneraria, primrose & ranunculus
- 1305 Bromeliads
- 1306 Cactus
- 1336 Christmas cactus
- 1346 Croton
- 1335 Cyclamen

- 1432 Cooley spruce gall
- 1444 Coryneum blight
- 1451 Cytospora
- 1422 Douglas-fir tussock moth
- 1423 Dutch elm disease
- 1411 Fireblight
- 1446 Flea beetles on vegetables
- 1445 Fungus gnats
- 1447 Grasshoppers
- 1448 Greenhouse whitefly
- 1457 Hawthorn mealybug
- 1412 Hollyhock rust
- 1454 Honey locust plant bug
- 1453 Horsehair worms
- 1440 Insect overwintering
- 1461 IPM & PHC: What are they?
- 1450 Juniper-hawthorn rust
- 1462 Miller moths
- 1424 Mountain pine beetle
- 1449 Oak leaf blister
- 1414 Oystershell scale
- 1460 Pesticides: Diazinon use & disposal
- 1426 Pesticides: disposal
- 1427 Pesticides: natural products
- 1428 Pesticides: poisoning & first aid
- 1429 Pesticides: safety
- 1430 Pesticides: toxicity
- 1431 Pesticides: who can use
- 1456 Pinyon pine "pitch mass" borer
- 1437 Poplar twiggall fly
- 1415 Powdery mildew
- 1458 Psyllids
- 1433 Rose diseases
- 1439 Sawfly on evergreens
- 1418 Scale insects on pine
- 1435 Slime mold
- 1436 Slugs
- 1416 Spider mites
- 1441 Strawberry pests & diseases
- 1406 Sycamore anthracnose
- 1419 Tobacco budworm
- 1442 Tomato diseases
- 1417 Tree borers
- 1410 Vegetable seedling pests
- 1443 Viruses in plants
- 1409 Woollybear caterpillars
- 1459 Zimmerman pine moth

Lawns

- 1531 Bermuda grass in lawns & gardens
- 1501 Brown tracks & wheel marks
- 1512 Buffalo grass lawns
- 1502 Choosing a lawn care company
- 1521 Choosing a lawn grass in Colorado
- 1525 Controlling broadleaf weeds in lawns
- 1530 Controlling weedy grasses in lawns
- 1513 Crabgrass
- 1503 Dog spots

- 1341 False African violet
- 1307 Ferns
- 1345 Gardenia
- 1308 Gloxinia
- 1309 Hobby greenhouses: benches
- 1310 Hobby greenhouses: construction
- 1311 Hobby greenhouses: covering
- 1312 Hobby greenhouses: heating
- 1313 Hobby greenhouses: types
- 1314 Houseplants: artificial light
- 1315 Houseplants: containers
- 1331 Houseplants: fertilizing
- 1316 Houseplants: repotting
- 1317 Houseplants: temperature
- 1318 Houseplants: watering
- 1319 How to force bulbs indoors
- 1320 Jade plant
- 1343 Kalanchoe
- 1339 Leaching salts from potted plants
- 1332 Moving houseplants outdoors
- 1321 Norfolk Island pine
- 1347 Orchid: Cattleya
- 1348 Orchid: Cymbidium
- 1349 Orchid: Paphiopedilum
- 1350 Orchid: Phalaenopsis
- 1351 Palms
- 1322 Paperwhite narcissus
- 1323 Philodendron
- 1324 Piggy back plant
- 1325 Poinsettia
- 1326 Rubber plant
- 1333 Saving forced bulbs
- 1327 Schefflera
- 1337 Snake plant
- 1328 Spider plant
- 1342 Stephanotis
- 1329 Succulents
- 1344 Tri-color wax plant
- 1330 Weeping fig
- 1338 Whitish crust on potting soil
- 1340 Zebra plant

Insects & Diseases

- 1401 Ants
- 1420 Ants & landscape plants
- 1402 Aphids
- 1425 Ash borers
- 1434 Ash plant bugs
- 1455 Ash sawfly
- 1403 Aspen leaf spot
- 1452 Aster yellows
- 1438 Bacterial wetwood
- 1404 Bees & pollination
- 1421 Beneficial insects
- 1405 Boxelder bugs
- 1407 Canker diseases on deciduous trees
- 1408 Clover mites
- 1413 Cockroaches

Annuals & Perennials

- 1043 Alpine ivy geraniums
- 1044 Amaranths
- 1029 Annual flowering vines
- 1005 Annuals
- 1006 Bulbs: alliums
- 1007 Bulbs: bed preparation
- 1008 Bulbs: colchicum
- 1009 Bulbs: fall flowering crocus
- 1038 Bulbs: fertilizing
- 1010 Bulbs: maintaining
- 1011 Bulbs: selecting
- 1012 Bulbs: spring flowering
- 1013 Bulbs: summer flowering
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- 1045 Clematis
- 1031 Columbine
- 1001 Container gardening: basics
- 1032 Daylily
- 1014 Fall asters
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- 1033 Hosta
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- 1047 Italian kitchen garden plants
- 1015 Lavender
- 1048 Leadwort
- 1036 Marigold
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- 1037 Oriental poppy
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- 1017 Perennials: how & when to plant
- 1018 Perennials: how to divide
- 1019 Perennials: maintaining
- 1020 Perennials: winterizing
- 1035 Petunia
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- 1046 Sedum
- 1021 Shade gardens: annuals
- 1022 Shade gardens: ground covers
- 1054 Shade gardens: soil preparation
- 1034 Starting seeds indoors
- 1004 Sunflowers
- 1051 Sunset hyssop
- 1023 Water gardening: in containers
- 1024 Water gardening: introduction
- 1025 Water gardening: plant recommendations
- 1026 Water gardening: planting aquatic plants
- 1027 Water gardening: winterizing water lilies
- 1028 Winter-hardy cacti

Annuals & Perennials

1043	Alpine ivy geraniums
1044	Amaranths
1029	Annual flowering vines
1005	Annuals
1006	Bulbs: alliums
1007	Bulbs: bed preparation
1008	Bulbs: colchicum
1009	Bulbs: fall flowering crocus
1038	Bulbs: fertilizing
1010	Bulbs: maintaining
1011	Bulbs: selecting
1012	Bulbs: spring flowering
1013	Bulbs: summer flowering
1053	Catmint
1045	Clematis
1031	Columbine
1001	Container gardening: basics
1032	Daylily
1014	Fall asters
1049	Four-o'clock
1033	Hosta
1041	Iris
1047	Italian kitchen garden plants
1015	Lavender
1048	Leadwort
1036	Marigold
1039	Mountain perennials: choosing
1040	Mountain perennials: location
1037	Oriental poppy
1002	Ornamental grasses
1030	Pansy
1042	Peony
1016	Perennials: for the rock garden
1017	Perennials: how & when to plant
1018	Perennials: how to divide
1019	Perennials: maintaining
1020	Perennials: winterizing
1035	Petunia
1003	Planning & plants for an herb garden
1052	Roy Davidson pulmonaria
1050	Russian sage
1046	Sedum
1021	Shade gardens: annuals
1022	Shade gardens: ground covers
1054	Shade gardens: soil preparation
1034	Starting seeds indoors
1004	Sunflowers
1051	Sunset hyssop
1023	Water gardening: in containers
1024	Water gardening: introduction
1025	Water gardening: plant recommendations
1026	Water gardening: planting aquatic plants
1027	Water gardening: winterizing water lilies
1028	Winter-hardy cacti

Design

1121	Butterfly gardens
1109	Challenging areas
1106	Color in the rock garden
1101	Colorado garden style
1113	Combining colors
1102	Container gardening: containers
1114	Container gardening: designing
1103	Design considerations
1115	Designing a rock garden
1126	Designing for shade
1124	Flower bed dimensions
1123	Formal residential design
1116	Front entry design
1127	Kinds of shade
1104	Landscape lighting
1105	Landscaping & the law
1117	Retaining walls: basics
1118	Retaining walls: design considerations
1107	Selecting a designer
1119	Selecting plants
1108	Shade garden perennials
1125	Shade gardening
1120	Tree placement tips
1110	Using color in the landscape
1111	Using hot colors or pastels
1122	Visual screens
1112	Water considerations

Fruits

1201	Apples
1209	Apricots
1202	Cherries
1214	Currants
1212	Elderberries
1216	Fertilizing fruit trees
1215	Gooseberries
1203	Grapes
1204	Peaches
1205	Pears
1206	Plums
1210	Pruning mature trees
1207	Raspberries
1213	Serviceberries
1208	Strawberries
1211	Training young trees

Houseplants

1301	African violet
1302	Aluminum & artillery plants
1303	Amaryllis
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1305	Bromeliads
1306	Cactus
1336	Christmas cactus
1346	Croton
1335	Cyclamen

1432	Cooley spruce gall
1444	Coryneum blight
1451	Cytospora
1422	Douglas-fir tussock moth
1423	Dutch elm disease
1411	Fireblight
1446	Flea beetles on vegetables
1445	Fungus gnats
1447	Grasshoppers
1448	Greenhouse whitefly
1457	Hawthorn mealybug
1412	Hollyhock rust
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1453	Horsehair worms
1440	Insect overwintering
1461	IPM & PHC: What are they?
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1424	Mountain pine beetle
1449	Oak leaf blister
1414	Oystershell scale
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1426	Pesticides: disposal
1427	Pesticides: natural products
1428	Pesticides: poisoning & first aid
1429	Pesticides: safety
1430	Pesticides: toxicity
1431	Pesticides: who can use
1456	Pinyon pine "pitch mass" borer
1437	Poplar twig gall fly
1415	Powdery mildew
1458	Psyllids
1433	Rose diseases
1439	Sawfly on evergreens
1418	Scale insects on pine
1435	Slime mold
1436	Slugs
1416	Spider mites
1441	Strawberry pests & diseases
1406	Sycamore anthracnose
1419	Tobacco budworm
1442	Tomato diseases
1417	Tree borers
1410	Vegetable seedling pests
1443	Viruses in plants
1409	Woollybear caterpillars
1459	Zimmerman pine moth

Lawns

1531	Bermuda grass in lawns & gardens
1501	Brown tracks & wheel marks
1512	Buffalo grass lawns
1502	Choosing a lawn care company
1521	Choosing a lawn grass in Colorado
1525	Controlling broadleaf weeds in lawns
1530	Controlling weedy grasses in lawns
1513	Crabgrass
1503	Dog spots

1341	False African violet
1307	Ferns
1345	Gardenia
1308	Gloxinia
1309	Hobby greenhouses: benches, shading & supplies
1310	Hobby greenhouses: construction & foundations
1311	Hobby greenhouses: coverings
1312	Hobby greenhouses: heating & cooling
1313	Hobby greenhouses: types
1314	Houseplants: artificial light
1315	Houseplants: containers
1331	Houseplants: fertilizing
1316	Houseplants: repotting
1317	Houseplants: temperature & humidity
1318	Houseplants: watering
1319	How to force bulbs indoors
1320	Jade plant
1343	Kalanchoe
1339	Leaching salts from potting mixes
1332	Moving houseplants outdoors
1321	Norfolk Island pine
1347	Orchid: Cattleya
1348	Orchid: Cymbidium
1349	Orchid: Paphiopedilum
1350	Orchid: Phalaenopsis
1351	Palms
1322	Paperwhite narcissus
1323	Philodendron
1324	Piggy back plant
1325	Poinsettia
1326	Rubber plant
1333	Saving forced bulbs
1327	Schefflera
1337	Snake plant
1328	Spider plant
1342	Stephanotis
1329	Succulents
1344	Tri-color wax plant
1330	Weeping fig
1338	Whitish crust on potting mixes
1340	Zebra plant

Insects & Diseases

1401	Ants
1420	Ants & landscape plants
1402	Aphids
1425	Ash borers
1434	Ash plant bugs
1455	Ash sawfly
1403	Aspen leaf spot
1452	Aster yellows
1438	Bacterial wetwood
1404	Bees & pollination
1421	Beneficial insects
1405	Boxelder bugs
1407	Canker diseases on deciduous trees
1408	Clover mites
1413	Cockroaches

1522	Dollar spot of turfgrass
1532	Efficient lawn watering
1523	Fall lawn fertilization
1526	Fall lawn weed control
1533	Fertilizing lawns in spring & summer
1504	Grass clippings
1518	Growing grass in the shade
1514	Insects
1505	Lawn aeration
1527	Leaf blight of turf
1524	Leaf spot & melting out
1508	Lumpy lawn
1515	Mowing guidelines
1506	Mushrooms & fairy rings
1528	Necrotic ring spot on Kentucky bluegrass
1509	Patchy lawn
1516	Seeding a lawn
1517	Sodding a lawn
1529	Tall fescue as a weed in bluegrass lawns
1519	Tall fescue lawns
1520	Thatch
1510	Trails or burrows
1507	Tree roots
1511	Zoysia grass

Soils, Amendments & Composting

1612	Composting: fall leaves
1613	Composting: making
1623	Composting: structures
1614	Composting: using
1615	Composting: what can be composted
1622	Composting: worm composting
1616	Cover crops
1607	Cover crops: winter rye
1601	Epsom salts & wood ashes
1617	Expansive soils
1608	Fertilizers
1602	Gypsum
1603	Maintaining healthy soils
1618	Manure & soil improvement
1609	Organic mulches
1604	Organic soil amendments
1619	Organic vs. manufactured fertilizers
1620	Phosphate fertilizers & water pollution
1610	Salty soils
1605	Soil preparation
1606	Soil tests
1611	Water absorbing polymers
1621	Watering Colorado soils

Trees, Shrubs & Vines

1735	Ash trees
1701	Aspen trees
1702	Attracting birds
1738	Austrees
1703	Buying trees & shrubs
1737	Creeping grape holly
1704	Dwarf & specialty conifers

Water Considerations

- 2201 Automatic sprinkler system overview
- 2202 Colorado water divisions
- 2203 Denver water sources
- 2204 Drought cycles in Colorado

Wildlife Issues

- 2301 Deer control
- 2302 Deer resistant plants
- 2303 Squirrel damage to trees

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WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1
Horticulture Therapy Programming
Series III*

2
Free Day & 11 a.m. tour
Chatfield Arboretum



3
Science Investigations
with Mr. McGregor
Gardens of the World Tours
Gesneriad, Gloxinia Growers mtg.
Pots with Panache*

7
Senior Early Morning Stroll
7-18 Travel Adventure:
The Impressionist Road for Hikers

8
Denver Rose Society meeting

9

10
Science Investigations
with Mr. McGregor
Gardens of the World Tours
Rocky Mountain Orchid
Judging Center
Annuals: Easy, Colorful Gardens*
Japanese Tea Ceremony*
Rose Tour at Fairmount Cemetery
and Private Garden*
Tending Your Garden*

14
Flash & Flair!! Funk & Fun!!*

15
BirdHaus Bash Garden Party
and Auction

16
6/16-7/9 BirdHaus Bash Display

17
Science Investigations
with Mr. McGregor
Gardens of the World Tours
Rocky Mountain Bonsai
Society Show and Sale
Flowers and Ecology of North
Table Mountain*
Victorian Charm-Modern Advantages*
Watercolor Painting*

21
Herb Society meeting
North American Rock Garden
Society meeting
Creating Healthy Soil*
Grasslands*
Illustrating Medicinal & Edible Plants
of Colorado*
Tropical Adventure*

22
Summer Concert Series:
Shawn Colvin
African Violet Society meeting
Walk On The Wild Side*

23
Summer Concert Series:
Tuck & Patti
Around the World in a Garden*

24
Science Investigations
with Mr. McGregor
Gardens of the World Tours
Bonsai Society workshop
Japanese Tea Ceremony*
Perennials for Connoisseur*
Pruning Junipers: Overcoming
the Challenge*
Trough Garden Workshop*

28
New Members Party
The Naturalist's Journal: A way to
See, Draw and Write About Nature*
Tropical Adventure*

29
Summer Concert Series:
Cesaria Evora
Herbal Soap Making*
Walk On The Wild Side*

30
Around the World in a Garden*

- 1722 Evergreen trees for Colorado landscapes
- 1705 Fall & winter interest
- 1706 Fall & winter watering
- 1707 Fall planting
- 1708 Fertilizing trees & shrubs
- 1731 Hardening woody plants
- 1709 Hiring a tree care company
- 1732 Holly
- 1734 Linden trees
- 1733 Maple trees
- 1710 Native plants
- 1723 New & under used shrubs
- 1736 Oak trees
- 1739 Plant Health Care
- 1711 Planting trees & shrubs
- 1712 Preparing the planting site
- 1724 Pruning shade trees
- 1713 Pruning shrubs
- 1741 Rabbitbrush
- 1729 Renewing shrubs
- 1725 Roses: basics
- 1726 Roses: winter care
- 1714 Selecting shrubs
- 1715 Selecting trees
- 1716 Small trees & utility lines
- 1740 Stump removal
- 1717 Transplanting trees & shrubs
- 1718 Trees & shrubs for shady areas
- 1727 Vines for Colorado
- 1719 Watering
- 1720 When to fertilize
- 1730 When to prune trees
- 1728 Why leaves change color in the fall
- 1721 Why prune shade trees

Vegetables

- 1801 Baby pumpkins
- 1802 Buying & hardening transplants
- 1803 Chile peppers
- 1823 Collards
- 1804 Cool season leaf varieties
- 1805 Cucumbers & squash
- 1820 Cultural tips for leafy vegetables
- 1806 Growing cool season vegetables
- 1807 Growing great pumpkins
- 1808 Growing onions from seed
- 1809 Growing warm season vegetables
- 1810 Harvesting leafy vegetables
- 1821 Kale
- 1811 Planning a vegetable garden
- 1812 Raised beds vs. rows
- 1813 Root vegetables
- 1825 Second crops
- 1814 Seeding vegetables
- 1815 Spicy greens
- 1816 Sweet corn
- 1817 Tomatoes for home gardens
- 1818 Transplanting into the garden

- 1822 Vegetable harvest stories
- 1819 Vegetable site tips
- 1824 Watering vegetables

Xeriscape™

- 1909 Annuals & perennials
- 1901 Basics
- 1902 Design
- 1903 Efficient irrigation
- 1904 Learning more
- 1910 Maintenance
- 1905 Mulches
- 1906 Ornamental grasses
- 1907 Plant choices
- 1908 Soil amendments
- 1911 Trees & shrubs
- 1912 Turf & alternatives

Miscellaneous

- 2003 Additional information:
green industry organizations
- 2004 Additional information: plant societies
- 2005 Additional information: sources
- 2006 Christmas trees: care for cut trees
- 2017 Christmas trees: care for living trees
- 2007 Christmas trees: recycling
- 2008 Commonly used plant terms
- 2012 Edible flowers
- 2011 Gardening as a renter
- 2014 Hail damage
- 2001 How to use this information system
- 2018 Last spring frosts
- 2015 Lawn mower maintenance
- 2021 Misleading plant advertisements
- 2002 Plant Select® 1997
- 2009 Plant Select® 1998
- 2016 Plant Select® 1999
- 2019 Plant Select® 2000
- 2020 Seed storage
- 2013 Spring frosts & snows
- 2010 Tools: maintenance

Weeds & Cultural Problems

- 2101 Abnormal & distorted plant growth
- 2102 Canada thistle
- 2103 Colorado noxious weeds
- 2104 Controlling bindweed
- 2105 Desiccation in woody plants
- 2106 Dwarf mistletoe
- 2107 Edema
- 2115 Iron chlorosis
- 2108 Musk thistle
- 2109 Puncture vine
- 2110 Purslane
- 2111 Sunscald of trees
- 2112 Tree leaf scorch
- 2113 Why so many weeds
- 2114 Winter browning of evergreens

Water Considerations

- 2201 Automatic sprinkler system overview
- 2202 Colorado water divisions
- 2203 Denver water sources
- 2204 Drought cycles in Colorado

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- 2301 Deer control
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at any time during the call.

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<div>1</div> <div>Horticulture Therapy Programming Series III*</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Free Day & 11 a.m. tour Chatfield Arboretum</div> <div></div>	<div>3</div> <div>Science Investigations with Mr. McGregor Gardens of the World Tours Gesneriad, Gloxinia Growers mtg. Pots with Panache*</div> <div></div>
<div>8</div> <div>Denver Rose Society meeting</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Science Investigations with Mr. McGregor Gardens of the World Tours Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center Annuals: Easy, Colorful Gardens* Japanese Tea Ceremony* Rose Tour at Fairmount Cemetery and Private Garden* Tending Your Garden*</div> <div></div>
<div>15</div> <div>BirdHaus Bash Garden Party and Auction</div>	<div>16</div> <div>6/16-7/9 BirdHaus Bash Display</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Science Investigations with Mr. McGregor Gardens of the World Tours Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Show and Sale Flowers and Ecology of North Table Mountain* Victorian Charm-Modern Advantages* Watercolor Painting*</div> <div></div>
<div>22</div> <div>Summer Concert Series: Shawn Colvin African Violet Society meeting Walk On The Wild Side*</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Summer Concert Series: Tuck & Patti Around the World in a Garden*</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Science Investigations with Mr. McGregor Gardens of the World Tours Bonsai Society workshop Japanese Tea Ceremony* Perennials for Connoisseur* Pruning Junipers: Overcoming the Challenge* Trough Garden Workshop*</div> <div></div>
<div>29</div> <div>Summer Concert Series: Cesaria Evora Herbal Soap Making* Walk On The Wild Side*</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Around the World in a Garden*</div>	

Membership Mix-ups

In May, the membership files were converted to a new, much more comprehensive computer program. In the course of conversion, however, some members names or salutations may have inadvertently been changed. If you received a membership mailing with an incorrect name or salutation, please call 303-370-8029 and leave a message with your member ID number and the correction. The new computer system will help the Gardens serve you better in the future, so please bear with us while we make this important transition! We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Senior Early Morning Strolls

On June 7 and July 5, the Gardens will be open from 8 to 9:30 a.m. for senior members to come and enjoy the fresh morning air and wander through the beauty of the Gardens' early morning sunlight. Free coffee will be provided and each senior member may bring one friend along to share the fun.



DBG TRAVEL ADVENTURES

North of the border!

Denver Botanic Gardens is hosting two hiking trips to Canada. The first will be to the magnificent Canadian Rockies in August for wildflowers, heli-hiking and photography. Charles Mann, renowned photographer, will accompany the group to Lake Louise, Moraine Lake and to a remote lodge in the Selkirk Mountains. You will learn photographic techniques that will help you take better photos during wildflower hikes around the lakes and in the mountains. The tour is scheduled from August 1-9 and is \$2,695 per person.

The second trip is a fall hiking tour to the eastern province of Nova Scotia. Heading north from Halifax, you will travel to Cape Breton Island for spectacular hiking on the Cabot Trail. Lodging will be at the famous Keltic Lodge that has great views of the ocean. You will also explore the western shore of Nova Scotia, in particular the Bay of Fundy, where some of the highest tides in the world occur. The tour is scheduled from September 14-21 and is \$1,695 per person. Call Pam Rathke, Travel Coordinator at Denver Botanic Gardens, for more information or to make reservations, 303-370-8051.



Pam Rathke, Travel Coordinator

It's Dad's Turn

If you treated mom to a Gardens membership in May, remember to do the same for dad in June. During the month of June, any new gift membership bought for Dad will be accompanied with a \$5 Gift Shop certificate and a special announcement card.

New Member Party

Don't forget to make reservations to spend An Evening in an Artist's Garden ...The Monet Garden: A Living Canvas. New members are invited to enjoy a summer evening in the *Monet Garden* on June 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tours of the Gardens will be offered every half hour of the event and members of the Colorado Water Garden Society will be on hand to offer advice and answer questions. Refreshments will be provided by Three Tomatoes Catering.

Special Offer

Take advantage of this special opportunity to participate in a Summer Garden Tour. As a member of Denver Botanic Gardens you can get an up-close look at the art of professional landscape design as demonstrated in residential Denver gardens. By showing your membership card, you can purchase tickets in advance or on the day of the tour at a discounted price of \$10 per ticket, as opposed to the regular price of \$14. The tour takes place Sunday, June 25 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is sponsored by the Colorado Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Call 303-830-6616 for more information and to purchase tickets.

Photo©Jim Havey



Many stories are told through engraved bricks located in the Romantic Gardens.

It's Story Time

Many people are taking the opportunity to share their stories of love and friendship with a custom engraved brick in the Romantic Gardens. There is still time for you to use a brick to tell your story that will last a lifetime. Let your imagination design a one-of-a-kind gift for someone you love. For more information or to purchase a brick, call Melanie Hevko at 303-370-8055.

Join the Gardens' Charitable Gift Annuity Program

The charitable gift annuity is a popular gift that benefits not only charitable organizations, but also the contributors. Denver Botanic Gardens' gift annuity program offers lifetime income to people ages 65 and over that contribute at least \$10,000. Income can be designated to another person, such as a parent or child. The income rate remains fixed and is based on the age of the income recipient at the time the gift is made. For example, the rate ranges from 7% at age 65 to 10.5% at age 85. Call Carmen Neu, 303-370-8077, to discuss charitable gift annuities.



Ed Connors, Dick Kirk, Arnold Roane and other Gardens Board of Trustee Members rolled up their sleeves to show their support for our many garden renovations.

Major Gift Appreciations

Denver Botanic Gardens recently received two major gifts. The El Pomar Foundation made a \$100,000 gift to help fund the renovation and expansion of the Education Building. For over 30 years, the El Pomar Foundation has generously supported Denver Botanic Gardens allowing many important projects to be completed. The Bonfils-Stanton Foundation also gave the Gardens a \$27,500 grant to support the Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series, which will resume in fall 2000. This lecture series plays a key role in the Gardens' efforts to provide outstanding educational opportunities. Denver Botanic Gardens appreciates these gifts and the opportunities they provide.

Memorials and Tributes

In Memory of DeDe Gorin

Mr. William B. Voss

In Memory of Joe Petersen

R & R Bricks

Bayou Bob's

Mr. & Mrs. William Filpula

In Memory of Margaret Altwater

Ms. Elmira Elliott

Mr. & Mrs. David Ferguson

In Memory of Mary Brown Filley

Knobby & Mack Brown

In Memory of Jewell D. Reeves

Knobby & Mack Brown

In Memory of Douglas K. Wollard

Mr. Robert J. Pletcher

In Memory of Alice Schultz

Ms. Mary Ann Schultz

In Memory of Helen Kundrat

Ms. Almira Parker

In Memory of Vernice Jones

Mr. & Mrs. Burt Jones

Mr. & Mrs. Florin Hemminger

Dr. & Mrs. Vincent Votteler

Oahe Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Feigum

In Memory of Howard B. Leve

Ms. Margie Wortzman

In Honor of Jane Ries

Ms. Barbara S. Young

In Honor of Jack Wiel

Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Appel

Changing Lives at Denver Botanic Gardens



Graduates of the Gardens Horticultural Therapy Certificate Program.

Lives are changed at Denver Botanic Gardens' Center for Horticultural Therapy Studies. Adult learners from all over the country enter the Horticultural Therapy (HT) Certificate Program looking for a career and often leave with a new perspective on life. In turn, they go back to their own communities and change the lives of the people they serve through horticultural therapy.

"Your program has given me a vision of what I can be. You've given us all the tools to go out and make this happen," commented Laura Litka from Utah. Litka recently completed all of the coursework in the HT Certificate Program and celebrated the conclusion along with her 18 fellow students on March 12. This marks the second graduating class from the Gardens' HT Certificate Program.

"The desire to pursue an HT career has been sitting inside of me for approximately 15 years. I'm so happy to now have the opportunity to pursue a career where I can be my true self and grow," declared Deb James, an HT student from Fort Collins, Colorado. "I know all this has made a difference in my whole life and how I view where I fit into the world." James is involved with a horticultural therapy program at an assisted living facility in Fort Collins. She works with clients both indoors and outdoors throughout all four seasons. HT students work in a variety of settings including a state hospital, a group home for adults with developmental disabilities, a residential boys home, a community college, a long-term care unit for people with Alzheimer's, a community garden and a cancer hospital. In these diverse settings, the common denominator is utilizing horticulture therapeutically to touch and change lives.

"These are the first classes I've taken, and I've taken a lot, where the teachers, students and staff support each other, share with one another and are honest and open. It is such a nice treat from the competitive, draining atmosphere my other educational experiences have entailed," remarked Julie Galbraith, a student from California.

The next course, Introduction to Horticultural Therapy, is offered September 7-10, 2000. For more information about the classes or to enroll, call 303-370-8020. For more information on the Horticultural Therapy Certificate Program contact Christine Kramer, 303-370-8190.

Christine Kramer, Horticultural Therapy Assistant and Janet Laminack, Horticultural Therapy Specialist

Experience a Best-kept Secret!

The Sensory Garden is an intimate garden where visitors are encouraged to experience plants using all their senses. Just north of the main parking lot on York Street, the Sensory Garden is one of Denver's best-kept secrets! Enthusiastic volunteers give weekday tours every year from June through September to people with special needs in the Sensory Garden. Here are a few comments overheard in 1999 from tour participants:

"It's wonderful to have a safe and stimulating place for our Alzheimer's residents!"

"The sensory tour is an excellent way for disabled kids to experience all senses no matter what their disability."

"We just needed more time!"

"I liked the big hats and the guide knew my name."

"The guide adjusted the tour to meet our needs."

Focused on providing a garden experience for people with special needs, the tours have also expanded to provide evening times for families and individuals with special needs to enjoy a guided tour. As always, the garden is also open to members and the general public to come experience a multi-sensory garden on their own. For more information on sensory tours or to schedule a tour, call 303-370-8020.

Janet Laminack, Horticultural Therapy Specialist

We are happy to announce that Susan Eubank, writer of "The Garden Plot," recently gave birth to a baby girl. In Susan's absence, "The Garden Plot" will be replaced with on-going educational events.

“Passionate Gardening”

Together again are Denver Botanic Gardens’ Director of Horticulture Rob Proctor and Lauren Springer. Both award-winning garden writers invite you to share an evening of good garden advice with them. This is your opportunity to enjoy two of Colorado’s premiere speakers and view great garden slides from their newest book, “Passionate Gardening.” Hailed by critics as among today’s top American garden writers, both Rob and Lauren have translated their shared passion for plants into a new book that will raise the spirits, expectations and results of all gardeners. In the presentation, a diverse display of plants and the best techniques for gardening in our challenging climate will be shown. Being both good friends and garden-writing colleagues, Rob and Lauren will entertain, inform and inspire you with practical wisdom and tales of perseverance in their own gardens.

In addition to being Director of Horticulture at the Gardens, Rob has written more than a dozen books and lectured all over the country. Lauren designs gardens for the public, is the author of the highly respected “The Undaunted Garden” and has won awards from the Garden Writers Association. After the evening’s presentation, both speakers will gladly sign books and answer questions. “Passionate Gardening,” along with Rob and Lauren’s many other books is available in the Gift Shop and can also be borrowed from the Gardens’ Library. The program will be held in Mitchell Hall on Tuesday, June 13 at 7 p.m. The cost is \$25 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. Pre-registration is strongly recommended by calling 303-370-8020.

Paula Ogilvie, Adult Program Manager




Rob Proctor and Lauren Springer have transformed “American Gothic” into “American Gardener.”



Rod Saunders amid a field of Gazania krebsiana in South Africa.

Fascinating Flora Presentation

As a kick-off to our Gardens of the World special events, Rod and Rachel Saunders, owners of Silverhills Seeds, will offer a unique opportunity to see the diverse flora of South Africa on Tuesday, July 11 at 7 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. The Saunders live in Cape Town where they operate their mail order seed company that specializes in the collection of South African native plants. Rod Saunders has lived in South Africa since 1950 and has had a long career in horticulture with the municipality of Johannesburg and Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens. This promises to be an exciting presentation featuring the excellent photography of Rod Saunders. The cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. To register please call 303-370-8020 by Friday, July 7. 

Denver Botanic Gardens
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Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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Weekend Gardens of the World Tours

New this summer
Denver Botanic Gardens is offering
free weekend public tours of three
Gardens of the World.

Tours run through Labor Day weekend.

Tours of the *Rock Alpine Garden* are offered at 11 a.m.
and the *Monet* and *French Kitchen Gardens* at 1 p.m.

Tours are 45-minutes long and free for Gardens members
or included with admission to the Gardens.

Call 303-370-8020 for more information.



Green Thumb News

www.botanicgardens.org

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with extended hours May-September

General information 303-331-4000

TDD 303-370-8032

Dr. Green plant information 303-370-8068

Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Planttalk (24-hour) 1-888-666-3063

recorded plant information

Gift Shop 303-331-4009

Helen Fowler Library 303-370-8014

Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address changes 303-370-8060

Class registration 303-370-8020

Facility rental 303-370-8012

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Security, emergencies 303-370-8017

Special events information 303-370-8187

Development 303-370-8055

Volunteering 303-370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 303-973-3705

Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

On the cover: Gardens of the World, Kristy Van Koughnet

Green Thumb News

July 2000



Japanese Garden Festival

Cover Story on page 2



INSIDE THE GARDENS

The Gardens' Update



News

from the Executive Director

I can't remember a time in my 36-year career that the botanic gardens business was as exciting as now. I have never been around a garden team who has united around a shared dream in the way our horticulture staff has in the last few months. The energy within our staff is almost unbelievable as they work towards getting the whole garden into first-class condition for the summer and for our birthday in 2001.

The conditions that create this enthusiasm are no secret. Good leadership and vision from Director of Horticulture Rob Proctor is the key – we wouldn't be on our way without it. A first-class team of knowledgeable and dedicated staff who know their business inside and out and who embrace a "we can do it" attitude is essential, but behind all this is a new and exciting way of doing things.



Rich Bishop

Volunteers help plant in the *Rock Alpine Garden*.

Every member of staff is jointly responsible for our success and therefore everyone has ownership in the outcome. The results have been immensely rewarding. The horticulture team and the many volunteers who have been working alongside them have gained massive respect from other staff at the Gardens and members of our Board. We now even see members of the administrative staff helping out with planting!

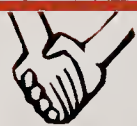
I'm writing this at the beginning of May. When you read this, the results of that team work will be evident through many rejuvenated gardens, which show all the signs of the love and dedication of a truly astonishing committed team of wonderful people: thanks, Rob, for helping to make this happen.

Brinsley Burbidge, Executive Director



Employee of the Month

Congratulations to the June Employee of the Month, Operations Manager Rich Bieling. Rich accomplishes a lot of high-quality work while balancing a multitude of projects. He is always willing to roll up his sleeves to fix a problem, and his wonderful sense of humor helps to make the Gardens a great place to work.



Helping Hands Volunteers

Come be a part of one of our most fun and exciting events yet! A 5-acre corn maze is being built at Chatfield. It will be open daily from September 2 through October 31, and many volunteer opportunities are available. We are looking for individuals or groups of volunteers to help with customer service and many more positions. Please call 303-973-3705 for more information.



The Wild Side News from Chatfield



When was the last time you frolicked across a field after a butterfly? You will have the chance to re-live this childhood pleasure and contribute to conservation at the same time at the Butterfly Census at Chatfield. With the expert assistance of Michael Weissmann, volunteer counters will look for and identify the hungry pollinators among the flowers of vegetable plants and on the wildflowers and grasses throughout the woodlands and fields. Many different types of butterflies will be seen, such as orange sulfers and western tiger swallowtails.

Join us for this great opportunity to search for and learn about butterflies and their habitats on Saturday, July 15 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To participate in the census and contribute to butterfly conservation, the cost is \$3. Admission to Chatfield to observe the count is free for members. The cost for nonmembers is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children 6-15 and free for children 5 and younger. Call 303-973-3705 for more information.




Cover Story: Japanese Garden Festival

This summer, come to Denver Botanic Gardens and help us celebrate Gardens of the World, including the traditional and beautiful Japanese Garden, with a Japanese Garden Festival on Friday, July 14. With the help of the Japanese American Citizen League, we will celebrate the serenity and strength of the Japanese spirit. Musical performances that range from the calming Koto players to the awesome power of the One World Taiko Drummers will be featured. Exhibitions will offer everything from bonsai trees to Japanese wood sculpting. Additionally, several different Japanese culinary treats will be available for purchase and can be complimented with Kirin beer.

In conjunction with the 20th anniversary of our authentic Japanese Tea House and the celebration of Gardens of the World, the Japanese Garden Festival will take you on a summer evening journey that celebrates Japanese gardening and culture. The event will take place from 6 to 9 p.m.



Photo©Jim Havey


Tickets will be available at the door at a cost of \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. Japanese food, beer and crafts will be available for purchase during the festival. The major corporate sponsor is Kirin Brewery of America. 

Sunset Garden Stroll Featuring Polynesia Pacifica Foundation

Celebrate Gardens of the World with us! Delight in *Paradise Revisited* and *Tropical Botanica*, two of our exotic gardens that will transport you to the tropics. The Gardens



See Ancient Hawaiian (Kahiko) dancers, fire dancers and many more at the Sunset Garden Stroll on August 4.

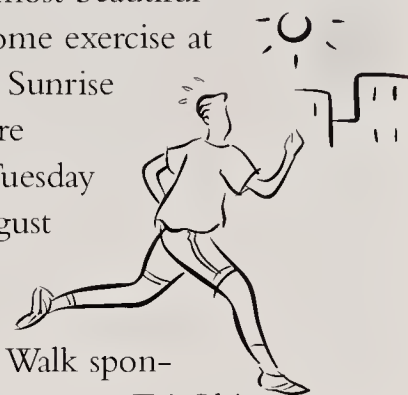
will come alive with Polynesian crafts, cultural displays, Hawaiian dancers and the ever-popular fire dancers. Bring a picnic or purchase Polynesian food and join the Luau on Friday, August 4. Tickets are \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. Call 303-370-8091 for more information. 

BirdHaus Bash Display

Come to the BirdHaus Bash Display at the Gardens and see some of the most creative birdhouses ever! Birdhouses submitted for the BirdHaus Bash were auctioned and sold to benefit programs at the Gardens and are on display through July 9 for all to enjoy. See birdhouses in all sizes, shapes and colors, and get ideas for what you want to enter in next year's BirdHaus Bash! Also cast your vote for your favorite birdhouse in the People's Choice Award sponsored by People's Choice Transportation. Entrance is included with admission to the Gardens.

Sunrise Fitness Walks

Spend a morning enjoying the Gardens in its most beautiful light and get some exercise at the same time! Sunrise Fitness Walks are offered every Tuesday in July and August from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Enjoy a



Sunrise Fitness Walk sponsored by Wells Fargo or Tai Chi practice sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons. Both are free and open to the public.

Designing Momma

Congratulations to Julie Rudofsky, our graphic designer! Julie gave birth to a baby girl on May 5. We wish the new family well and await Julie's return in the fall.



Gardens of the World – The Journey Continues

Plants and the gardens they inhabit display an incredible diversity of form and style dependant upon their geographic location. Climate dictates the nature of plants, while individual cultures have defined the many ways that plants are used for sustenance and aesthetic appeal. All around the world, gardens offer remarkable insight to the traditions, history and artistic evolution of humankind.

Gardens of the World at Denver Botanic Gardens showcases many different types of plants and styles of gardens distinctive to their sense of place. The *Rock Alpine Garden* exhibits a worldwide spectrum of flora, the *Monet Garden* honors Monet as both a gardener and an artist and the *Japanese Garden* demonstrates *Shofu-en*, an expression of the Japanese gardening style.

Our *Mediterranean Plaza* gives you the opportunity to travel to the Mediterranean and bask in a sun-drenched atmosphere of warmth and antiquity. 40,000 species of plants originate in the Mediterranean, which is more than any other temperate region. Our garden includes a tiled fountain and pergola that set the stage for a series of striking cobalt containers that cool the eye and complement the plantings that surround the plaza. It echoes the spirit of the countries in southern Europe, northern Africa and the coastal Middle East, which brings a vast palette of plants and a wealth of horticultural techniques to bear. From the Romans with their love of symmetry, to the Arabs with their genius for



The striking *Mediterranean Plaza* is part of Gardens of the World.

irrigation and passion for a multitude of plants, the Mediterranean is where gardens began to emulate paradise. The pleasure of the garden encompassed the sensual delight of fragrant flowers, succulent fruits, a rainbow of colors and the soft texture of leaves. While the music of water played accompaniment, all the senses were engaged. Now we have captured all of these aspects in our own *Mediterranean Plaza*.

PlantAsia acknowledges the beloved Chinese peony as a featured plant in this garden, along with Siberian iris (*Iris sibirica* L.). These sturdy plants have become standards used freely in gardens around the globe. Other familiar plants featured that grow in Asia and North America are from the genera *Salvia*, *Veronica* and *Geranium*. *Woodland Mosaic* is the transformation of the Low Maintenance and Home Demonstration Gardens into a shade lovers' paradise. The dry stream bed ties the gardens together, as do the container plantings on the deck and

beneath the shade structure. Plants with an Asian heritage suited to shade link *Woodland Mosaic* with *PlantAsia* for an eastern adventure.

The fascinating flora of Australia and New Zealand are the featured players in the summer extravaganza, *Down Under*, located in the Sunken Garden. The plants occupy center stage in a myriad of colorful ceramic pots. Many plants from "down under" are not hardy to our winter climate, but they are excellent choices that create unique container gardens with dramatic forms of foliage and flowers.



Paradise Revisited

It all started with the Victorians. As intrepid plant hunters roamed the world in search of botanical treasure, the mania for glass structures to house and display the bounty of exotic flora exploded. Tropical plants became the signature of status throughout Britain, with collections of orchids, bromeliads and palms reigning supreme. Exotics moved outdoors in warm weather into summerhouses and gazebos where their dramatic and often flamboyant displays were enjoyed under open skies and stars.

Our own *Paradise Revisited* invites you to encounter intriguing tropical specimens in an unlikely setting. A copper-roofed, iron-work gazebo provides the open air housing for an exhibit guaranteed to excite your imagination and appreciation of plants normally protected under cover with climate control. This reminiscence of an opulent era long past is a window to a world of plants that know no winter. Alongside the orchids, bromeliads and palms will be bamboo, banana and ginger, as well as many other unique plants from tropical regions around the world. In recent years, the resurgence of this style of display has come to be known as Tropicalismo, and is bringing this time-honored display technique to a new generation of plant lovers eager for inventive and expressive ways of showcasing collections of plants.

The gazebo was positioned into place this spring with the help of a high-lift crane, thanks to Hensel Phelps Construction Company, that carried it carefully over greenhouses and trees. As the stylish structure was lowered into place adjacent to the *Monet Garden*, the vision of *Paradise Revisited* found its home.



The new home of *Paradise Revisited* will soon be filled with tropical plants.



Jayne Irvin

Line drawing of *Pinus ponderosa* P. Lawson & C. Lawson, which can be seen in the *Japanese Garden*.

Plant Profile: *Pinus ponderosa*

For 20 years *Shofu-en*, the Garden of Pine Wind (the Japanese Garden), has provided Denver Botanic Gardens with a beautiful representation of Japanese gardening style. The more than 100 ponderosa pines (*Pinus ponderosa* P. Lawson & C. Lawson) planted throughout the garden bring a Rocky Mountain feeling to this landscape that evokes human's harmonious relationship with nature. The pine tree is traditionally used in Japanese gardens as a symbol of longevity and strength.

The Denver Bonsai Club collected the ponderosa pines for *Shofu-en* at a site near Lyons. The trees were chosen because of the unique form of their trunks and branches. Over the years the pines have been pruned and trained to maintain and enhance the subtle beauty begun by nature. The techniques include the use of guide wires and bamboo poles to train and support branches, and removing or reducing the size of new shoots (candles) to control growth and promote budding.

Ponderosa pine has given its signature to the Garden of Pine Wind. Its twisted, weathered form and endurance of drought, hail and heavy snow give credence to its symbolic strength. As for longevity, it is said that the whisper of the pines in the wind expresses the wish for a long and happy life.

July

Colorado Watercolor Society Show and Sale, June 28-July 9

This show will feature a wide variety of high-quality watercolor artwork. Both framed and unframed pieces will be available for sale. The event is included with admission to the Gardens and is open daily from June 28 through July 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended summer hours from Saturday through Tuesday. Call Jackie McFarland for information, 303-431-2037.

Lecture Presentation:

Flora of South Africa, July 11

As a kick-off to our Gardens of the World special events, Rod and Rachel Saunders, owners of Silverhill Seeds in South Africa, will offer a unique opportunity to see the diverse flora of South Africa on July 11 at 7 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. This exciting presentation will feature the photography of Rod Saunders. The cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. To register call 303-370-8020 by Friday, July 7.

American Iris Society Show and Sale, July 16

The American Iris Society's show and sale will be on July 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until "sold out" in Mitchell Hall. Many iris varieties will be featured, including choice rhizomes grown by expert gardeners. Experts will be on hand to answer questions. Entrance is included with admission to the Gardens. Call Rob Stetson for information, 303-733-5709.

Mile High Daylily Society Show and Sale, July 22

The Mile High Daylily Society will host a show on July 22 in Mitchell Hall from 12 to 4 p.m. Both classic and the very latest in daylily varieties will be on display. Daylilies will not be for sale at this time, however, experts will be available to answer questions. Entrance to the show is included with admission to the Gardens. Call Dixie Sipe for information, 303-424-3504.

Glass at the Gardens, July 26-August 6

Almost every technique of stained glass will be represented at the 21st Annual Glass at the Gardens Stained Glass Show. It will be held in Mitchell Hall and entrance is included with admission to the Gardens. The show will open on Wednesday, July 26 at 1 p.m. and run during Gardens hours and special events until August 6, when it will close at 5 p.m. Call Deborah Carlson for information, 303-689-9072.

KEY FOR CALENDAR

Bold red type = Gardens events

(V) = Volunteers are needed.

Call 303-370-8049.

Bold black type = Plant Society events

Regular black type = Classes

(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Arboretum

⌘ = Free to members

🌍 = Gardens of the World Special Events

SUNDAY



2

Gardens of the World Tours 🌍
Story Time in the
Mr. McGregor's Garden
Colorado Water Color Society
Show and Sale ⌘
BirdHaus Bash Display

9

Gardens of the World Tours 🌍
Story Time in the
Mr. McGregor's Garden
Colorado Water Color Society
Show and Sale ⌘
BirdHaus Bash Display
Dahlia Society meeting
Japanese Tea Ceremony*

16

Gardens of the World Tours 🌍
Story Time in the
Mr. McGregor's Garden
American Iris Society
Show and Sale ⌘
American Begonia Society meeting
Tea Time!*

23

Gardens of the World Tours 🌍
Story Time in the
Mr. McGregor's Garden
Japanese Tea Ceremony*
The No-Fuss Herbalist*

30

Gardens of the World Tours 🌍
Story Time in the
Mr. McGregor's Garden
Plant Investigators*

MONDAY



3

Free Day at York Street
Colorado Water Color Society
Show and Sale ⌘
BirdHaus Bash Display
Plant Investigators*



10

Glass in the Gardens meeting
Plant Investigators*
Alpine Ecosystems*
10-14 Deer Creek Discovery Camp
at Chatfield Arboretum*

17

Plant Investigators*
Further Adventures in Detailed
Plant Drawings*
17-21 Deer Creek Discovery Camp
at Chatfield Arboretum*

24

Plant Investigators*
Nature Photography*
Painting Flowers with Colored Pencil*
24-28 Deer Creek Discovery Camp
at Chatfield Arboretum*

31

Plant Investigators*
7/31-8/4 Deer Creek Discovery
Camp at Chatfield Arboretum*

TUESDAY



4

Sunrise Fitness Walk
Colorado Water Color Society
Show and Sale ⌘
BirdHaus Bash Display
Bonsai Society Meeting

11

Sunrise Fitness Walk
Lecture Presentation: 🌍
Flora of South Africa*
Cactus Society meeting
Kids with Dirty Hands*
Iridescent Buzzing Bombers*
Hummingbirds*
Learning to Draw Flowers in
Mount Goliath Wildflower To

18

Sunrise Fitness Walk
Mycological Society meet
Bonsai Society meeting
Mount Goliath Wildflower To
Kids with Dirty Hands*
Shrub Rose Paradise*

25

Sunrise Fitness Walk
Kids with Dirty Hands*
Mount Goliath Wildflower To



November

- 3 Free Day and Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 10, 11 Holiday Gift and Garden Market
- 23 Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum
Closed for Thanksgiving
- 29, 30 Herald the Season – *For Members Only*

December

Chatfield Arboretum
Only
 etum
 le
Only
 Council Fall Sale

- 1 Free Day and Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 2 Volunteer Appreciation Reception
- 2-31 Blossoms of Light Holiday Celebration
- 3 Blossoms of Light Grand Opening
- 25 Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum
Closed 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Gardens open for Blossoms of Light 6-9 p.m.
- 31 Last night of Blossoms of Light

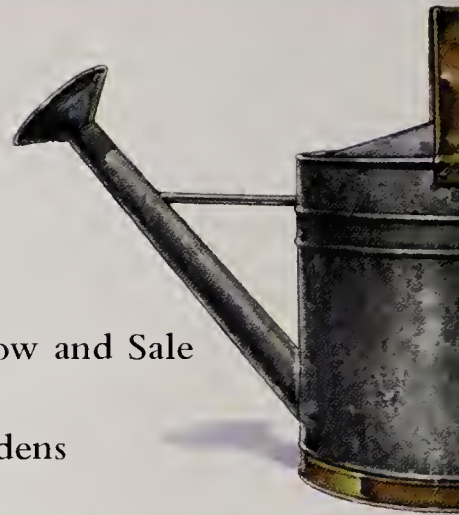
s Only

Chatfield Arboretum • 303.973.3705 • 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road • Littleton, CO 80128



2000 Calendar

July





- 6/16-9 BirdHaus Bash Display
- 6/27-9 Colorado Watercolor Society Show and Sale
- 1-9 Travel Adventure: The Amazon
- 3 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
- 4 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 5 Senior Early Morning Stroll – *For Members Only*
- 6 Summer Concert Series: Arlo Guthrie
- 7 Free Day and Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 10-14 Deer Creek Discovery Camp at Chatfield Arboretum
- 11 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 11 Lecture Presentation: Flora of South Africa
- 12 Corporate Evening at the Gardens
- 14 Japanese Garden Festival
- 15 Butterfly Count at Chatfield Arboretum
- 16 American Iris Society Show and Sale
- 17-21 Deer Creek Discovery Camp at Chatfield Arboretum
- 18 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 20 Lecture: Old Roses
- 20-23 Travel Adventure: Winter Park Wildflowers Tour
- 21 Summer Concert Series: Iris Dement
- 22 Mile High Daylily Society Show
- 24-28 Deer Creek Discovery Camp at Chatfield Arboretum
- 25 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 26-8/6 Glass at the Gardens Stained Glass Show
- 28 Summer Concert Series:
Poncho Sanchez and his Latin Jazz Band
- 31-8/4 Deer Creek Discovery Camp at Chatfield Arboretum

Denver Botanic Gardens • 303.370.8187 • 1005 York Street • Denver, CO 80206 • C

of Events



August

- 
- 
- 1-9 Travel Adventure: Canadian Rockies
 - 1 Sunrise Fitness Walk
 - 2 Senior Early Morning Stroll – *For Members Only*
 - 3 Summer Concert Series: The Nylons
 - 4 Free Day and Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
 - 4 Sunset Garden Stroll featuring Polynesia Pacifica
 - 7 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
 - 7-11 Deer Creek Discovery Camp at Chatfield Arboretum
 - 8 Sunrise Fitness Walk
 - 9 Members picnic – *For Members Only*
 - 12,13 Mile High Daylily Society Show and Sale
 - 13 Denver Rose Society Show
 - 15 Sunrise Fitness Walk
 - 15 Denver Botanic Gardens Summer Symposium:
A New Style of Gardens
 - 17 Summer Concert Series: Solas
 - 19,20 Rocky Mountain Koi Club Show
 - 22 Sunrise Fitness Walk
 - 23 Summer Concert Series: Waldemar Bastos
 - 25 Fete des Fleurs
 - 27 Colorado Mycological Society Mushroom Fair
 - 29 Sunrise Fitness Walk
 - 29-9/5 Denver Allied Arts Guild Show and Sale
 - 31 Summer Concert Series: Mighty Clouds of Joy

September

- 1 Free Day and Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 2 Opening of Corn Maize at Chatfield Arboretum
- 2-10/31 Corn Maize at Chatfield Arboretum
- 4 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
- 7 Summer Concert Series: Branford Marsalis
- 8 Summer Concert Series: David Wilcox
- 14-21 Travel Adventure: Nova Scotia Fall Hiker
- 15, 16 Fall Plant Sale
- 15, 16 Plant Dividend Days – *For Members Only*
- 20 Behind-the-Scenes Tour – *Arbor Circle Level*
Members and Above Only
- 23, 24 Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers Show and Sale
- 27 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture



October



- 2 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
- 4-22 Travel Adventure: China Explorer
- 6 Free Day and Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 7,8 Gift Shop Sale Event – *For Members Only*
- 14 Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Arboretum
- 14, 15 Denver Orchid Society Show and Sale
- 19 New Member Party – *For Members Only*
- 21 Rocky Mountain African Violet Convention
- 25 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture
- 28, 29 Gardens closed at noon for Goblins in the Gardens Event
- 28, 29 Goblins in the Gardens – *For Members Only*



DON'T MISS THE
Japanese Garden Festival
 FRIDAY, JULY 14
 6-9 p.m.

5

Senior Early Morning Stroll
Colorado Water Color Society
Show and Sale
BirdHaus Bash Display
North American Rock Garden Society
 Tropical Adventure*

6

Summer Concert Series:
Arlo Guthrie
Colorado Water Color Society
Show and Sale
BirdHaus Bash Display
 Walk on the Wild Side*

7

Free Day & 11 a.m. tour
Chatfield Arboretum
Colorado Water Color Society
Show and Sale
BirdHaus Bash Display
 Around the World with Plants*
 Drawing with Mixed Media in
 the Gardens*



8

Gardens of the World Tours
Science Investigation with
Mr. McGregor
Colorado Water Color Society
Show and Sale
BirdHaus Bash Display
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center
 Japanese Tea Ceremony*
 Shade Garden (Certificate Class)*
 Tundra Trip to Hoosier Pass*

12

Corporate Evening at the Gardens
 From the Designer's Eye: How to
 Critique Your Home Landscape*
 Tropical Adventure*

13

Denver Rose Society meeting
 Walk on the Wild Side*
 Mount Goliath Wildflower Tour—II*

14

Japanese Garden Festival
 Around the World with Plants*

15

Gardens of the World Tours
Science Investigation with
Mr. McGregor
 Butterfly Count at Chatfield Arboretum*
 Building Garden Structures:
*A Tour with the Pros**
 Natural Remedies & Herbs for
 Our 4-Legged Family Members*
 Summer Rose Care*

19

Herb Society meeting
North American Rock Garden Society
 Tropical Adventure*

20

20-23 Travel Adventure:
Winter Park Wildflowers Tour
 Walk on the Wild Side*
 Mount Goliath Wildflower Tour—IV*

21

Summer Concert Series:
Iris Dement
 Around the World with Plants*
 Tour to ForestEdge Gardens*

22

Gardens of the World Tours
Science Investigation
with Mr. McGregor
Mile High Daylily Society Show
 Japanese Tea Ceremony*
 Rocky Mountain Horticulture II
 (Certificate Class)*
 Tour to ForestEdge Gardens*
 Watercolor Mornings at Chatfield Arboretum*
 Watercolor Painting*

26

Glass at the Gardens Stained
Glass Show 7/26-8/6
 Tropical Adventure*

27

Glass at the Gardens
Lecture Presentation:
*Old Roses**
 Walk on the Wild Side*
 Mount Goliath Wildflower Tour—VI*

28

Summer Concert Series:
Poncho Sanchez and his
Latin Jazz Band
Glass at the Gardens
 Around the World with Plants*

29

Gardens of the World Tours
Science Investigation
with Mr. McGregor
Glass at the Gardens
Bonsai Society meeting
 Field Trip to Brainard Lake*





DBG TRAVEL ADVENTURES

2001 – A Travel Odyssey

The year 2001 will be an exciting one for our traveling members. In February, we will start with an 18-day trip to New Zealand where we will explore the gardens, farms, forests, mountains and coastline of both the North and South Islands. The tour starts in Auckland and ends in Queenstown with stops at the Bay of Island, Wellington, Kaikoura and Christchurch. On the way back home, we will relax on the beaches of Fiji.

Our spring tours take us to St. Louis, which will include visits to the Missouri Botanic Gardens, tours of private garden estates, private dinners and receptions and cultural events. We will also host weekend tours to the Garden Festivals in Carmel, Santa Fe and Philadelphia. Our 9th annual

wildflower tour will explore the private gardens and wildflowers near Aspen and will include special dinners, receptions and cultural events.

The end of July will find us enjoying the gardens and villas of the Italian Lake district primarily around Lake Como and Lake Maggiore. Private garden tours and receptions at exquisite

villas in Florence, Lucca, Fiesole, Sienna and Menaggio will be incredible, as will the special dinners and cultural events that are planned. Our Perennial Plant Coordinator Julie Loquidis will host the tour.

A late summer tour to Vancouver will find the weather particularly pleasant. Tours of area public gardens such as the VanDusen Botanical Gardens and Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island are included, as well as private gardens tours and other excursions.

Our final tour of the year will be an early fall horticultural trip to Kenya, which is well-known for its wildlife, but also offers incredible botanical, horticultural and bird-watching opportunities. Traveling from Nairobi, we will tour the areas near Samburu, Lake Naivasha and the Maasai Mara. We will be hosted at private estates, farms and ranches while enjoying the myriad of plants, trees and shrubs found nowhere else in the world. Along the way, witness the animal migrations and view elephants, lions and cheetahs close-up. Our Director of Horticulture Rob Proctor will host the tour.

For more information, please call Pam Rathke, travel coordinator for Denver Botanic Gardens at 303-370-8051. Look for the 2001 Travel Brochure in the October issue of the *Green Thumb News*.



This is Your Last Chance!

Don't miss the final Senior Early Morning Stroll for members only, which will take place July 5 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Come enjoy the Gardens in its summer-time splendor as you sip free coffee and stroll about. Be sure to bring a friend along to enjoy the Gardens with you!



Membership Coordinator Syd Glick and volunteer Nancy Wardell sold memberships at the Plant and Book Sale.

Volunteers Shined at the Plant and Book Sale

Our sincere thanks to the volunteers who came forward to help sell memberships outside the gates before and during both the members-only hours and the public hours of the Plant and Book Sale this year. Many new members are now regular visitors and can take advantage of the numerous member benefits throughout the year.

Members Picnic

Save the date for Wednesday, August 9, when we will hold our annual members

picnic. Enjoy the new and renovated Gardens of the World at this event, which will be fun for adults, children and grandparents alike. Invitations will be sent to members toward the beginning of July and more details will follow in the August *Green Thumb News*.



So Many to Thank!

This summer, many generous corporations supported the Gardens' events with sponsorships. Join us in thanking the following sponsors:

BirdHaus Bash – 9NEWS, People's Choice Transportation, Vectra Bank, Colorado Birdseed Packaging, Inc. and Wynkoop Brewing Co.

Summer Concert Series 2000 – ING Security Life, Usbancorp Piper Jaffray, Loews Giorgio Hotel

Sunrise Fitness Walks – Wells Fargo and AARP

Japanese Garden Festival – Kirin Brewery of America

Fete des Fleurs 2000 – Dick and Roselyn Saunders, Northern Trust Bank of Colorado and Shane Co.

All events – *The Denver Post*

Support for all events – The Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)



Photo©Jim Havey

Thanks to generous spring gift donations, a new deck located adjacent to Le Cafe Monet will overlook the beautiful Monet Garden.

Thank You to Our Friends

If you've visited the Gardens this summer then you have seen our best garden ever! As you walk through the Gardens you can see many spectacular changes. We would like to thank those of you who helped fund this rejuvenation of the Gardens with your additional spring gifts. We all imagined the possibilities, but you helped make it happen. We hope you will continue to visit the Gardens often and watch as more transformations occur. As you can see, your gift does make a difference!

Send a Message that Lasts!

Many people have taken the wonderful opportunity to have a personalized engraved brick placed in the Romantic Gardens for all to see. Share your love and memories with a message that will last a lifetime, or just have fun creating your own personal piece of the Gardens! To purchase a brick or for more information, call Melanie Hevko at 303-370-8055.



Become a Perennial Friend

Please consider becoming a Perennial Friend of the Gardens by including us in your will. Your gift will continue support beyond your lifetime, providing a legacy that ensures a vibrant and beautiful future for Denver Botanic Gardens. For information describing several planning opportunities, call Carmen Neu at 303-370-8077.

Maternity Leave

Jennifer Darling, director of development and membership, will be on maternity leave until November 1, 2000. Anita Livingston in Corporate Development will take Jennifer's place in her absence. If you have any questions or special needs, you can reach Anita, or Jennifer's assistant, Melanie Hevko, at 303-370-8055.

Memorials and Tributes

In memory of Mr. Joseph E. Petersen

Joel and Martha Geiger

In memory of Mrs. Alice Winters Hoskinson

Juli, Meagan & Chase Smith

In memory of Mrs. Margaret Denton

Ms. Ann R. Levy

In memory of Ms. Alice Schultz

Ms. Nancy Jean Allen

In memory of Mrs. Elio Stacy

Ms. Ann R. Levy

In memory of Mrs. Frances Osborn Brown Fields

Ms. Ann R. Levy

In memory of Mark Schweigert

Mrs. Gertrude P. Naster
Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens

In memory of Mrs. M. (Pete) Shepherd

Ms. Phyllis Van Engen

In memory of Mr. Matthew Thomas Cole

Ms. Jacquelyn Wonder

In memory of Mr. Alex Warner

Mrs. Alex Warner

In memory of Mr. Steven E. Balkin

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Appel

In honor of Dick & Roselyn Saunders

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Newman

In honor of Leo & Linda Goto

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Newman

In honor of Mr. William Bradford

Ms. Katharine H. Stapleton

In honor of Mrs. Bea Taplin

Mr. John R. Evans

Renowned Botanical Illustrators Teach at the Gardens

Denver Botanic Gardens is honored to offer two very special botanical illustration workshops, **Painting Flowers with Colored Pencil** presented by Gary Greene, July 24-26, and Annie Farrer's **Learn to Draw and Paint in the "Kew Tradition,"** August 28-September 1.

Greene's workshop emphasizes the use of various techniques in wax or oil-based colored pencil and water-soluble colored pencil. Greene is the author of many books and has won numerous awards for his paintings. He conducts workshops in the United States and Canada, and is a 5-year Signature

Member of the Colored Pencil Society of America.

Farrer's workshop will teach students to really learn to look! This 5-day course is suitable for beginners as well as those with more experience who wish to develop their botanical illustration skills. Farrer teaches an annual course in botanical illustration at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Her paintings have been exhibited in the Kew Gardens Gallery and the Tryon Gallery, among others. To register for either of these special new programs, please call 303-370-8020.

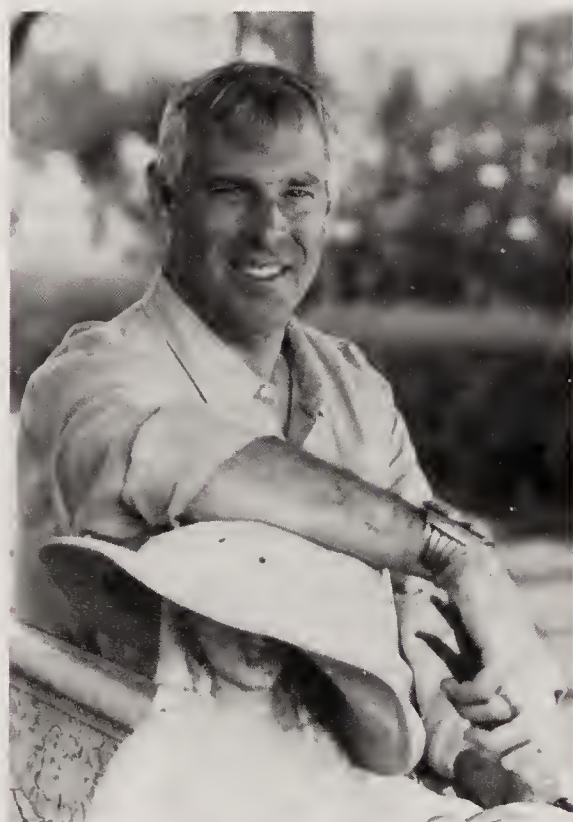


Susan Fisher

Botanical illustration of Trumpet Vine, *Campsis radicans* (L.) Seem. ex Bureau.

Romancing the Rose

The romance and charm of roses is eternal. In conjunction with the renovations to the May Bonfils-Stanton Rose Garden that emphasizes old roses, we are delighted to offer a special



Clair Martin will share his expertise on Old Roses when he lectures at the Gardens July 20.

slide-lecture on Old Roses presented by Clair Martin. Martin, rose garden curator at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, oversaw a complete redesign of their Huntington Rose garden. A prolific author, Martin's newest book is "100 Old Roses for the American Garden." Martin is the chairman of the international Huntington Symposium

on Old Garden Roses and served as a Float Judge for the 1999 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade.

Before you come to the lecture, be sure to stroll through the May Bonfils-Stanton Rose Garden and see the new improvements. Denver Botanic Gardens' talented horticulture staff, including Director of Horticulture, Rob Proctor, Perennial Plant Curator Julie Loquidis and Significant Gardens Team Leader Loddie Dolinski oversaw the renovations of the garden and it is now truly a sight to behold. Beneath the pergola, old-fashioned shrub roses mingle with other heirloom flowers. Near the waterway, a new breed of tough, dependable landscape roses bloom prolifically amid a carpet of complimentary annuals. In the lower section, standard miniature roses in bright colors consort with fragrant annuals, providing a treat for all the senses. In addition, Italian pots display standard roses, adding a classic influence. Martin's lecture on Old Roses is on Thursday, July 20 at 7 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. The cost is \$12 for members and \$16 for nonmembers. Please call 303-370-8020 to register.

Worms and the Other Wonders of A World of Plants

"It's a worm!" shouts a 6-year-old as she digs in Mr. McGregor's Pick and Plant Garden. "My centipede is faster!" retorts her companion. Then a butterfly flutters by and everyone's head turns as smiles abound. The glee of children exploring the world of plants and gardens at Denver Botanic Gardens is impossible to reproduce on paper, but you can experience it for yourself every weekday from now until August 11, at one of our fun, hands-on children's plant excursions.

Do plants get sunburned? Is there sugar in a leaf? Can water lilies drown? These are the sorts of questions we answer on Mondays during **Plant Investigators**.

Tuesdays are **Kids with Dirty Hands** days. Children plant, weed, water, pick, and, of course, eat. It's a great time for those who really "dig" gardening (gloves are provided for kids who want to keep their hands clean).

If your children are bored with summer adventures in Colorado, maybe they need a **Tropical Adventure**. On Wednesdays children will not only wander through the mists of Tropical Botanica, but they will also dance the hula in a grass skirt,



Photo © Jim Heavey


Children can explore the *Monet Garden* in the program, *Around the World in a Garden*.

take a smell test of tropical spices and play in a bamboo band.

More adventures await children on Thursdays who dare to take a **Walk on the Wild Side**. Search for creatures large (like fish and fox) and small (such as millipedes and moths) and much, much more.

The whole wide world of plants is the subject of **Around the World in a Garden** on Fridays. Children will savor the feel of Asia in the *Japanese Garden* and *PlantAsia* one week, while searching the mountains of the *Rock Alpine Garden* another week. We might take the time to sit and paint in the *Monet Garden*, or wander through the *Spanish Orchard* and

see what we can find.

Whichever day you choose (and you can choose them all), *A World of Plants* will offer many exciting children's programs that provide a fascinating new look at plants. Programs take place between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. and are open to children 6 to 12 years old. Call 303-370-8041 for more information. 

Steamboat Springs Garden Tour

Experience the beauty of mountain gardens at the annual High Country Garden Tour in Steamboat Springs, presented by the Strings in the Mountains Music Festival. Enjoy a day of learning, touring and shopping. Our own Panayoti Kelaidis, curator of plant collections, will give a lecture followed with a question and answer session. Plants and garden arts and crafts will be available for sale and master gardeners will be on hand to answer questions. In addition, you will tour six of Steamboat Springs' most beautiful and extraordinary outdoor living spaces. The event takes place on Saturday, July 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 if tickets are purchased prior to the event, and \$18 the day of the event. Call 970-879-5056, extension 104, for more information.

Mr. McGregor's Garden



Everyone is Invited
To Hear Enchanting Plant Stories
Read Out Loud in Mr. McGregor's
Pick and Plant Garden

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Mount Goliath Tours



Photo©Jim Havey

Carpets of dainty wildflowers, grand mountain vistas and sculptured bristlecone pines are just a few examples of the beauty you will see on Mt. Goliath. Throughout July we will

be offering guided tours of the M. Walter Pesman Trail on Mt. Goliath where you will witness a fabulous summer display of alpine wildflowers, dramatic rock formations and remarkable views. The trail is a moderately difficult 1.5-mile path that begins at 12,100 feet and winds its way down Mt. Goliath. The tours are offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon from July 11 through July 27. They are free, but pre-registration is required. Call 303-370-8020 for more information and to register.

Green Thumb News

www.botanicgardens.org

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Hours

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& Saturday–Tuesday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

General information 303-331-4000

TDD 303-370-8032

Dr. Green plant information 303-370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Planttalk (24-hour) 1-888-666-3063
recorded plant information

Gift Shop 303-331-4009

Helen Fowler Library 303-370-8014

Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address changes 303-370-8060

Class registration 303-370-8020

Facility rental 303-370-8012

Green Thumb News 303-356-3325

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Membership services 303-370-8029

Security, emergencies 303-370-8017

Special events information 303-370-8187

Development 303-370-8055

Volunteering 303-370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 303-973-3705

Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

On the cover: Japanese Garden, Jim Havey

Green Thumb News

September 2000

Denver Botanic
Gardens

**Corn Maze at
Chatfield Nature Preserve**
(New name for Chatfield Arboretum!)

Cover Story on page 2



Denver Botanic Gardens



News from the Executive Director

Our wonderful site at Chatfield has really come to life this year. One of the most exciting changes for Chatfield is that it has been renamed Chatfield Nature Preserve. Because of the importance of Chatfield, we thought that it should have a name that appropriately describes what it is—a valuable environment for education, research and conservation efforts.

The second annual Deer Creek Discovery Camp, which we hold for children, just recently finished. Seven sessions were held and each one was filled with 18 young people from many backgrounds who experienced an exciting week, including an overnight campout "on the farm." Children learned about the Colorado countryside, wildlife and farming from Jackie Sanderson, our naturalist, and a group of dedicated camp counselors.

The detailed restoration of the Hildebrand Farmhouse, with a generous grant from the State Historical Fund, is almost complete and will soon provide fascinating insight into farm life at the beginning of this century, as well as giving us a charming landmark building to accompany the historic schoolhouse.

Additionally, lots of fun for the entire family is on the horizon. Preparations for our annual Pumpkin Festival, which will be on October 14, are well underway. This is not only an opportunity to buy a spectacular pumpkin for your Halloween party, but also a chance to experience a "village fair" of the best sort. There will be entertainment for the whole family, as well as many craft vendors and the outstanding display of working farm machinery and tractors from those wonderful FRAPA (Front Range Antique Power Association) people—who also provide hay bale rides for everyone.

Another exciting event coming to Chatfield is our new Corn Maze, which will be open from September 2 through October 31. This massive five acres of maze shaped in the form of a sunflower is astonishing when seen from the air and a real challenge for kids and adults alike. Two bridges connect the paths, which makes the maze (designed with the help of Mr. Maze himself, Brett Herbst and managed by Marsha Temple with Creative Marketing Solutions) really complex to negotiate. Corn patrol volunteers will help you out if this complexity defeats you, and you can always give yourself a helping hand by buying



©Jim Havey

Children will be able to enjoy a hay bale maze perfect for their size at the Corn Maze at Chatfield.

an aerial photo so that you can work out exactly where you are.

So Chatfield is really rocking! We'd love to have you pay us a visit and see just how far we have come in the past year.

Brianley Burbidge, Executive Director



Employee of the Month

Congratulations to the August Employee of the Month, David Ballantine, Irrigation Tech. His hard work and constant positive attitude contributed greatly to the success of many new gardens this summer. During the past month, which was a period of urgency and short staffing, Dave was able to single-handedly take care of several emergencies that arose and still complete other projects to keep garden renovations and installations on schedule.



Helping Hands Volunteers

Coming Soon, A World of Gifts at Your Fingertips

The holidays will be here soon, and next thing you know, it'll be time to start buying for all the people on your list. So where can you find the perfect gift for everyone you know, as well as those handy gifts that you'll need at the last minute? Denver Botanic Gardens' Holiday Gift & Garden Market is the place.

This year we've added an international flair to our inventory, so you'll see many more unique, beautifully handcrafted and clever gifts. Televera Pottery from

Mexico, artistic hooked rugs from California, crafts from the Appalachian Mountains and some local favorites, including our Guild's herbal vinegars and honey from our Chatfield site, will all be available so that you can find just the right gifts to fulfill all your shopping needs.

Denver Botanic Gardens' Holiday Gift & Garden Market will take place on November 10 and 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Admission is free. Look for more information in the October and November issues of the *Green Thumb News* or call 303-370-8049.



Artistically hooked rugs, like this one entitled "Purple Irises" by L. Galen Larson, will be available for purchase at the Holiday Gift & Garden Market.

Cover Story: Corn Maze at Chatfield



The sunflower-shaped Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve opens on September 2.

Did you know there are more than 3,500 different uses for corn products? Corn is used in many things, including chewing gum and photographic film. Denver Botanic Gardens decided to take corn to a new level by building a five-acre Corn Maze at our Chatfield site. You won't want to miss this fun and exciting event!

What makes this event even more exciting is that it's taking place at our Chatfield site, newly renamed to Chatfield Nature Preserve. Chatfield is located south of Denver in Littleton, and consists of 700 acres of native flora and fauna, grasslands and wetland ponds. Several distinct ecosystems, as well as two historic 19th century historic farms provide a valuable environment for education,

Sacred Earth

One of our most recently renovated gardens is the Sacred Earth garden, which features plants used by American Indians of the Four Corners area. This renovation is part of "A Celebration of Living Native Cultures," a collaboration project between Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Art Museum, Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Denver Zoo, made possible through the support and vision of the SCFD (Scientific & Cultural Facilities District). The goal of this exciting project is to raise awareness of American Indian cultures and celebrate the history and cultural heritage of the Rocky Mountain region. The project is

research and conservation efforts, and the perfect space for our Corn Maze!

The Corn Maze is cut into the shape of a giant sunflower that creates an intricate maze that you can explore in its entirety, or in just one half. You can also enjoy an overhead view of other maze-goers from atop two viewing bridges. Once inside, if you find that the continuous pattern of the maze has you running around in circles, just look for the corn patrol volunteers who will be stationed throughout the maze to assist anyone who is lost or needs help. Younger children will also be able to get lost in their very own hay bale maze, just right for their size.



Our maze has been designed and built by Brett Herbst of The Maize®, which is currently the world's largest corn maze company. The Maize® has created more than 45 mazes all over North America that attracted nearly 650,000 visitors. Our maze is managed

guided by various American Indian advisory groups and incorporates special events, exhibits and educational opportunities for the community to enjoy.

Sacred Earth incorporates interpretive information about the important plants used by American Indians for foods, tools, dyes and celebrations that are contained in the garden. A committee of American Indians from the Four Corners area played a significant role in the planning of the garden and performed a sacred blessing before it was planted. Every day reveals new growth in Sacred Earth, so be sure to come by and see it in its splendor.

by Marsha Temple with Creative Marketing Solutions.

While corn mazes are all about fun, they also provide the opportunity to educate people about corn, farming and agriculture. On September 2 our Education Department will have a display that teaches about corn, including how it can be used as food and how it relates to people, places and history. Adults, teenagers, school groups and people of all ages will enjoy the time they spend both learning and having fun at the Corn Maze.

The Corn Maze will be open from September 2 through October 31 during the following hours: Monday–Thursday 4–9 p.m., Friday 4–10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth 3–15 and members receive a \$2 discount per ticket. Members may buy discounted tickets to the maze in advance at Denver Botanic Gardens' main gate, Chatfield Nature Preserve or select King Soopers stores. Call 303-973-1694 for specific store locations and more Corn Maze information.

Fall Plant Sale

Denver Botanic Gardens will hold its 2nd Annual Fall Plant Sale on Friday September 15 for members only from 4–7 p.m. and Saturday September 16 for members and the general public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Take advantage of the season to plan and plant for next year. There will be a wide selection of shrubs, perennials, bulbs and houseplants for sale.

Horticulturists will be on hand to discuss plants from our own spectacular gardens and to answer questions. In addition, Plant Dividend Days will allow members to select their annual plant of choice. Please see the insert in the center of this newsletter for more information regarding the sale.



Collections On-line

For centuries people have shared plants and information. Most of this has been carried out through printed checklists, floras or lengthy exchanges of plant material. Many botanic gardens have resources unknown to the public and scientific community. Before now, this information has been difficult to distribute and therefore virtually inaccessible.

In order to help change this Denver Botanic Gardens has released the contents of our Living Collections and Herbaria on the World Wide Web, therefore increasing our regional and global presence. For the first time ever we are offering visitors to our Web site access to our Collections Database, where you can explore a host of botanical and horticultural information through two separate search forms.

You can search for plants by scientific or common name, or even by part of a name using a wild card search (both sites contain instructions for searching). Living plants and general locations are currently available, along with dried plant specimens stored in our Herbaria. Herbarium specimens include information such as collection date, collector, habitat and location information.

The multisite is the result of coordinated data from a group of botanic gardens and arboreta who have joined together to create a 'virtual collection,' which is the largest assemblage of living plants ever amassed—a tremendous resource of immense value for conservation, scientific research, horticulture and education.

A virtual collection is a series of collections maintained by different institutions but linked in a way that all collections can be searched through a single interface called a multisite. It is called "virtual" because it does not exist physically as a single entity anywhere; it is created by a combination of linked computing systems around the world.

An alternative to the multisite is searching the collections of Denver Botanic

Gardens. A search form can be found on our homepage www.botanicgardens.org by selecting 'Collections Database' from the menu options. The Collections Database is updated monthly with thousands of changes occurring between each update. The Research Department is currently working on digital images of both the living collections and herbarium specimens, some of which will be available by the end of the year.

So, what types of questions can the Collections Database answer? Below are some example questions that you can find the answers to by visiting www.botanicgardens.org

- ▶ Where can I find Bristlecone Pines (*Pinus aristata* Engelm.) in the living collections?
- ▶ Where can I find the columnar cultivar of the European Beach, *Fagus sylvatica* 'Fastigiata'?
- ▶ What is the correct name of *Castalia alba* (L.) Woodv. & Wood?
- ▶ What species are in the subgenus *Hydrocallis*?

Multisite Searches

The data available from this page are extracted from the on-line Living Collections and conservation databases at the sites shown below. **You can simultaneously search as many of these databases as you wish.** Simply check the box next to the site or sites that you wish to query.

You can select multiple sites by category using the buttons below

Scientific or common name

US sites

European sites

Conservation sites
















Select all sites

Additive selection ☐
Exclusive selection ☐

Submit Query

Reset

00 sites out of 00 selected


<input type="checkbox"/>  Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	<input type="checkbox"/>  Royal Horticultural Society	<input type="checkbox"/>  World Conservation Monitoring Centre - Threatened Plants
<input type="checkbox"/>  The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum	<input type="checkbox"/>  Holden Arboretum	<input type="checkbox"/>  The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
<input type="checkbox"/>  Cornell Plantations	<input type="checkbox"/>  Phipps Conservatory and Botanic Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/> The New York Botanical Garden
<input type="checkbox"/>  The Desert Botanical Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>  The EU Wildlife trade database	<input type="checkbox"/>  Denver botanic gardens
<input type="checkbox"/>  ELTE botanical gardens, Budapest	<input type="checkbox"/>  CITES-listed plants data base	<input type="checkbox"/>  Montgomery botanical center
<input type="checkbox"/>  WCMC's Plant Conservation Bibliography		

In the Multisite Search form you can search for plants at Denver Botanic Gardens or at many different institutions. Simply enter a scientific or common name and click the submit query button.

The search form can be found at: <http://www.rbge.org.uk/forms/multisite.html>

- What genera are in the Myrtle family (Myrtaceae)? How many were named by Carl von Linnaeus? (abbreviated L. in the database).
- Who collected herbarium specimens of *Penstemon ambiguus* Torr. (Gilia Penstemon or Sand Penstemon) and where were they collected?

Andrew Doran, Plant Taxonomist and
Thomas Grant, Research Associate



Denver Botanic Gardens
1005 York Street
Denver, Colorado USA
80206-3799
303-331-4000 *gen. info.*
303-370-8032 TDD
[Directory](#)
[York Street Hours](#)
[Admission Rates](#)
[Year 2000 Wall Calendar](#)
[Youth Speaker Series](#)

DBG Collections Database Search Results

Plant Names (Query number: 569)

Note. Results contain living collections (DBG Accessions), herbarium specimens, and associated images.

Hits 1 to 1 of 1 matching **Apache Pine**

1. *Pinus engelmannii* Can.
Status: accepted name
Family: Pinaceae
Pine family
Vernacular name(s): (Apache Pine)

Living Accession(s)

[960189](#)
[982450](#)

Herbarium Specimen(s)

[5018](#)

At Denver Botanic Gardens' Web site, the results of your search will look like this. By selecting the links "Living Accessions" or "Herbarium Specimens," the location and collections information on the plant you searched for can be viewed.



©Jim Harey

Zea mays L., commonly known as corn, will form the Corn Maze at Chatfield.

Plant Portrait: *Zea mays* L.

As you wander through the labyrinth of the Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve this month, think about this incredible plant that is such an important thread in the fabric of civilization. Corn is a grass in the family Poaceae, and its ability to hybridize readily has resulted in thousands of varieties, more than any other crop species. Corn originated in Mexico and Peru and has traveled a journey to all corners of the world.

This ancient benefactor of the American Indians has a fascinating history that reaches beyond its use as food. Early American Indian cultures recognized corn as a sacred and spiritual gift of nature that is still honored in modern times. Corn has long been a cash crop, processed and commercialized into many products including cereal, sugar, starch, oil and liquor, as well as a home garden staple.

Celebrate one of the great plants of the western hemisphere this autumn. Roam the stalked halls of the Corn Maze and thank Mother Nature for the grass that adds so much to our lives.

September

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve September 2-October 31

Explore your way through five acres of a giant sunflower-shaped Corn Maze at our Chatfield site. It's fun for adventurers of all ages! The Corn Maze will be open from September 2-October 31 during the following hours: Monday-Thursday 4-9 p.m., Friday 4-10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$5 for youth ages 3-15 and children 2 and younger are free. Members receive a \$2 discount per ticket. For more information call 303-973-1694.

Fall Plant Sale September 15 and 16

The Fall Plant Sale will take place on Friday September 16 for members only from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday September 16 for both members and the general public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A wide selection of shrubs, perennials, bulbs and houseplants will be for sale. Bring your own wagon to transport your plants and take advantage of plant valets who will help carry your plants to your car. See the insert in the center of this newsletter for more information or call 303-370-8021.



Plant Dividend Days September 15 and 16

Show your current membership card and receive one free plant per member. Come get your plant during the same hours as the Fall Plant Sale. See page 7 for more information on Plant Dividend Days.

Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers Show and Sale September 23 and 24

The Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers Show and Sale will take place Saturday, September 23 from 1 to 5 p.m. and Sunday, September 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. African violets, gesneriads, soil, pots and gardening supplies will all be available for sale. Entrance is included with admission to the Gardens. Call Jean Miller at 303-421-3195 for more information.

KEY FOR CALENDAR

Bold gold type = Gardens events
(K) = Kids Programs
Call 303-370-8020

Bold black type = Plant Society events

Regular black type = Classes

(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Nature Preserve

⌘ = Free to members

🌍 = Gardens of the World Special Events



Come to the Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve September 2-October 31

3

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Gardens of the World Tours 🌍
Story Time in Mr. McGregor's Garden (K)
Colorado Artists Guild Show and Sale ⌘

4

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
Colorado Artists Guild Show and Sale ⌘

5

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Colorado Artists Guild Show and Sale ⌘
Denver Botanic Gardens vinegar workshop
Bonsai Society meeting

10

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Colorado Water Garden Society meeting

11

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Mycological Society meeting
Glass at the Gardens meeting

12

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Cactus & Succulent Society meeting

17

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve

18

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve

19

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve

24

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers Show and Sale ⌘

25

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Ultra Violet African Violet Club meeting

26

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Bonsai Society meeting
Colorado Native Plant Society meeting



A-MAZING New Event!

at Chatfield Nature Preserve
(formerly Chatfield Arboretum) . . .

CORN MAZE

WHAT:

A new giant five-acre sunflower-shaped Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve.

WHEN:

The Corn Maze will be open from September 2 - October 31, 2000.

WHERE:

Chatfield Nature Preserve is a site operated by Denver Botanic

Denver Botanic Gardens Fall Plant Sale

Friday, September 15th - Members-Only Shopping - 4 - 7 p.m.
Saturday, September 16th - Public Shopping Hours - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Don't fall behind. Now is the ideal time to plan for next year's garden and enjoy the cool autumn weather.



Members Shop Early

Members will have the first opportunity to shop on Friday evening, September 15th from 4 - 7 p.m.

On Saturday, September 16th, the general public will be able to shop from 10 a.m.

Shopping list

Many plants and shrubs benefit from being planted during the fall months when they can establish roots before the rigors of the growing season. The Fall Plant Sale will include the following divisions:

Ronsai

Admission

Admission to the sale is free. Only one member per membership card will be admitted during the members-only shopping. (Seniors and physically challenged members may bring a second person for assistance). Members receive a 10% discount on all purchases. New memberships and renewals will be sold at the gate.

Location

The Fall Plant Sale is smaller than the Spring Plant Sale. Please note there will be no books for sale. **Shoppers can enter and exit at the main gate only at 1005 York Street.**

Parking

Plant valets will be on hand to help load purchases into your car. There will be no bus shuttle service.

Bulbs
Interior Tropicals
Orchids
Perennials
Daylilies
Iris
Peonies
Ornamental grasses
Shrubs

Plant Dividend

Visit the Plant Dividend station and show your current membership card to receive one plant per member.

Bring Your Own Wagon

The Gardens encourages shoppers to bring their own wagon or cart to transport plants. Shopping carts will not be available.

For more information about the Fall Plant Sale, call 303-370-8187.

Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York Street, Denver, CO 80206
www.botanicgardens.org



just south of C-470 off Wadsworth Boulevard.

HOW:

Visitors to the Corn Maze will enjoy running around in the circles of an intricate sunflower. Adventurous maze-goers can either try to find their way out of the entire maze, or choose to battle half. Corn Patrols will also be nearby for anyone who needs to be pointed in the right direction. On-lookers can watch their friends and family in the maze from atop two viewing bridges. Smaller children will find a hay bale maze, adjacent to the Corn Maze, perfect for their size.

Entrance to the Corn Maze is \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth 3-15. Members receive \$2 off each ticket price.

CONTACT:

The Volunteer Hotline phone number is 303-331-4011. For general information, call 303-973-1694.



Corn Maze at Preserve October 31



6

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Denver Botanic Gardens' Guild
vinegar workshop

7

Summer Concert Series:
Branford Marsalis
Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Denver Botanic Gardens' Guild
vinegar workshop

8

Summer Concert Series:
David Wilcox
Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

9

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging
Seminar

13

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

14

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Denver Rose Society meeting
14-21 Travel Adventure:
Nova Scotia Fall Hiker

15

Fall Plant Sale
Plant Dividend Days— 
Members Only
Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

16

Fall Plant Sale
Plant Dividend Days— 
Members Only
Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
High Country Judges
Rocky Mountain African Violet
Society meeting

20

Behind-the-scenes-tour
*Arbor Circle Level Members
and Above Only*
Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
North American Rock Garden
Society meeting
Herb Society meeting


21

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

22

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

23

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers
Show and Sale 

27

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

28

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Ikebana International meeting
Gardeners of America meeting


29

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve


30

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Bonsai Society meeting

1

Free Day & 11 a.m. tour
Chatfield Nature Preserve
Denver Allied Arts Guild
Show and Sale 

2

Opening of the Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Gardens of the World Tour
Science Investigation with
Mr. McGregor (K)
Denver Allied Arts Guild
Show and Sale 
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers meeting



2001 Calendar Now Available!

In commemoration of Denver Botanic Gardens' 50th birthday, we have produced a year 2001 wall calendar. The calendar has beautiful historical and contemporary photographs, written historical accounts, a time line and much more! It's the perfect gift to give yourself, or someone you would like to share the beauty of Denver Botanic Gardens with. Buy your calendar in the Gift Shop today!



DBG TRAVEL ADVENTURES

New Zealand and South Pacific Explorer, February 2001

This "down under" adventure begins with an exploration of Rarotonga, part of the Cook Island chain. After two days of discovering the tropical gardens, culture and pristine beaches, we head to Auckland, our first stop in New Zealand. We will tour the wonderful gardens and museums as well as the



Yatch Basin and Mt. Eden before departing for the Bay Islands to visit Paihai, Waitanga and Keri Keri. Our next destination is Wellington, where we explore Te Papa, Otari Native Plant Museum, Percy's Reserve and the Botanic Gardens. Then it's on to Kairkoura and Christchurch for winery tours and whale watching before our "farm-stay"

in Fairlie. Queenstown provides a multitude of gardens, museums, winery tours and other activities to entertain us for a couple of days before our Milford Sound Cruise. Our final days are spent in Dunedin with tours in and around this very "Scottish" town and ends with a "Haggis" Ceremony and Dinner. Finally, we will stop for two days to relax on the beaches of the Tahitian island of Moorea.

For more information or to register, please call Pam Rathke at 303-370-8051. This trip will fill quickly, so call now!

Yearly Plant Dividends

Plant Dividend Days will be held on Friday and Saturday September 15 and 16, in conjunction with the Fall Plant Sale. Members may choose one free plant per current membership (any category). This year's dividend selection includes the unusual Double Flowered Bloodroot, Hardy Cyclamen and Giant Solomon's Seal, plus many more. All plants are grown by Denver Botanic Gardens and cooperating Green Industry Growers. Be sure to bring your membership card with you to the sale to receive your free plant.



Plant Dividend Days for members will be on September 15 and 16.



Stock Gifts Make Sense

Your year-end gifts are greatly appreciated and we hope that if you own appreciated securities, you will wisely use some to make your gift. Rather than use cash, simply transfer securities to the brokerage account of Denver Botanic Gardens. In doing so, you will avoid capital gains tax on your gift, yet you will receive a charitable tax deduction for the full market value. The Gardens will benefit from the full market value as well, since it is a tax-free entity.

Using appreciated stock to fund a charitable gift annuity is also wise. Your annuity is based on the market value of the stock, only about half of your annuity gift is subject to capital gains tax, and payment of those taxes is spread over a period of years.

To transfer securities to the Gardens, or to discuss using them to fund a charitable gift annuity, please call Carmen Neu, Planned Giving Manager, at 303-370-8077.



The Sacred Earth garden features a variety of plants used by American Indians of the Four Corners area.

Attention! Garden Clubs

Would you like to have our Director of Horticulture Rob Proctor and our Director of Development and Membership Jennifer Darling come to your next meeting to talk about the many exciting changes at Denver Botanic Gardens? If so, call Melanie Hevko at 303-370-8055 to arrange a time.



•Thank You•

Denver Botanic Gardens is very grateful to the generous people who opened their beautiful gardens to Four Seasons and Circa Botanica members. The annual garden tour is a magical summer experience. Our warm thanks to Jocelyn and James Chilvers, Norma and Wayne Hazen, David Macke, Kathy Nichols and Norm Silberling, Susan and Robin Yetter, Annie Zook and The Denver Puppet Theatre.

Memorials and Tributes

In memory of Ms. Ellie Johnson
Mrs. Nancy D. Petry

In memory of Charlotte Nielsen
The Perennial Garden Club

Follow the Children's Secret Path

Have you had a chance to explore the Children's Secret Path? Like Mr. McGregor's Pick and Plant Garden, it is a garden designed specifically for young children. Children start their journey by venturing through a juniper bush maze, then they put their senses to work by touching, smelling, listening and looking at the plants along the secret path.

Meanwhile, adult supervisors stroll along a path that allows them to see the children, but not to invade their private space. This newly installed behind-the-scenes area is now available for exploring, so make sure that every child you know doesn't miss out on yet another, beautiful (smaller) vantage point the Gardens has to offer.



Children can experience their very own garden in the Children's Secret Path.

Our Appreciation for Story Time Volunteers

Thank you to all who participated in Mr. McGregor's story time. Many children had the opportunity to enjoy listening to "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" and other

garden stories in Mr. McGregor's Pick and Plant Garden. This program could not have been such a success without your hard work and dedication to children.



Come see the mural in the Education Building created by artists from The Spot.

Thank You to The Spot

One of the walls inside the Education Building has taken on a whole new look thanks to many of the artists at The Spot. The Spot is a nighttime urban drop-in center that offers many creative activities for youth. Several young adults volunteered their talent, time and energy to help create the mural that surrounds the construction viewing area. Please be sure to stop by and see the progress on the expansion to the Education Building and the amazing artwork that highlights it.

Teacher Feature: *Susan Fisher*

The Education Department at Denver Botanic Gardens is pleased to announce Susan Fisher as new Program Coordinator for the Certificate Program in Botanical Art and Illustration. As an instructor in the Botanical Illustration program, she has become a familiar face and favorite teacher for students in the program.

Ms. Fisher has taught at Denver Botanic Gardens for several years, instructing students in a variety of classes ranging from beginning level pencil and colored pencil classes to more advanced watercolor and gouache classes. On class evaluations, students praise her for being enthusiastic, approachable and encouraging while sharing fundamentals of botanical illustration.

Ms. Fisher is looking forward to meeting new students in classes this fall and she comments that, "Teaching has been an excellent experience for me and I was honored to accept the position of Program Coordinator." Ms. Fisher will be teaching a number of classes, including two new classes she developed for the program, as well as additional evening sessions of the popular beginning level classes.



©Karen Parry

Susan Fisher is the new Program Coordinator for the Certificate Program in Botanical Art and Illustration at the Gardens.

Botanical Illustration Program Revised

As part of her duties as the new Program Coordinator for the Certificate Program for Botanical Art and Illustration, Susan Fisher has been hard at work revising the program. Students participating in the program now have the opportunity to receive a Certificate of Completion after taking 11 required courses and five electives. The core coursework is designed to allow students to master the techniques used in botanical illustration, as well as an opportunity to explore other areas of botanical illustration through electives.

As part of the new program requirements, Ms. Fisher has developed two new classes: color mixing and composition.

Color mixing, available to all painters, teaches students how to mix the exact color they desire; composition encourages students to examine the work of famous artists in order to improve their own work. In addition to new classes, evening sessions have been added to accommodate students who work during the day. A complete listing of fall courses is available in the Fall Educational Programs class catalog. For more information about the Certificate Program for Botanical Art and Illustration, please see the course brochure or call 303-370-8020.



Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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Denver Botanic Gardens

Behind-the-Scenes Adventure

A special invitation
for Arbor Circle level members and above

Featuring Gardens of the World

Lecture and Slide Show
Presented by Rob Proctor, Director of Horticulture

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

*Two Sessions: 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
in Denver Botanic Gardens' Mitchell Hall
1005 York Street, Denver*

Light refreshments by Three Tomatoes Catering
will be provided.

Space is limited and
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Please call 303-370-8018 by 5 p.m. on September 7
Two people per membership card are permitted.

Questions? Call Angela Davis, 303-370-6674

Green Thumb News

www.botanicgardens.org

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
Editor: Rachel McKinzie Designer: Ellen Stark

Hours for May–September

Open daily Wednesday–Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
& Saturday–Tuesday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

General information 303-331-4000

TDD 303-370-8032

Dr. Green plant information 303-370-8068

Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Planttalk® (24-hour) 1-888-666-3063

recorded plant information

Gift Shop 303-331-4009

Helen Fowler Library 303-370-8014

Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address changes 303-370-8060

Class registration 303-370-8020

Facility rental 303-370-8012

Green Thumb News 303-356-3325

Guided tours 303-370-8019

Job Hotline 303-370-8000

Membership services 303-370-8029

Security, emergencies 303-370-8017

Special events information 303-370-8187

Corn Maze information 303-973-1694

Development 303-370-8055

Volunteering 303-370-8049

Chatfield Nature Preserve 303-973-3705

Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Nature Preserve are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

On the cover: The Corn Maze, Jim Havey.

Green Thumb News

October 2000



**Pumpkin Festival at
Chatfield Nature Preserve**

Cover Story on page 2

INSIDE THE GARDENS

The Gardens' Update



News from the Executive Director

I would like to let you all know that the SCFD (Scientific and Cultural Facilities District) is wonderful. Not only do they provide many of Denver's cultural, artistic and scientific institutions with great annual support, but they also provide funding for imaginative projects undertaken by these institutions either separately or collaboratively.

Working in collaboration with the Denver Art Museum, Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Denver Zoo, we have put together an exciting program to celebrate and help make accessible Native American cultures. This program, called "A Celebration of Living Native Cultures," is a mixture of events, exhibitions and educational opportunities that the whole community can enjoy and learn from. We are achieving this with SCFD funding, which has encouraged our collaboration and allowed us to develop a unique program to show very different perspectives on Native American cultures.

This has been a fascinating program to help put together and we are work-

ing very closely with Native American advisory groups and individuals to ensure authenticity in everything we do. Denver Botanic Gardens' contribution is the Sacred Earth garden, a garden which features plants used by the peoples of the Four Corners area as food, dyes, tools and in celebrations. The garden has been planned and developed by representatives of those peoples and, once complete, will show a view of the natural world that will challenge our thinking. It presents a rewarding opportunity to view the plant kingdom through eyes that have an intimate, respectful and encompassing outlook on the natural world of which we are a part.

If you are a regular visitor, you will remember this garden for its spectacular display of flowering and fruiting amaranths in late summer. Come and see it in its more subtle fall beauty and do please plan to return next year when the garden will have achieved its full potential.

Brinsley Burbidge, Executive Director



Employee of the Month

The September employee of the month is Tracier Gray, horticulture specialist. Because of Tracier's enthusiasm, self-motivation, work ethic and problem-solving skills, he is a world-class horticulturalist. His friendly attitude and customer service skills make him a favorite among both our visitors and volunteers. Congratulations Tracier!

Concert Wrap-Up

The Summer Concert Series ended its season last month with nine sold-out shows and our highest attendance ever. There were numerous changes that were made this year. We have heard from many of you regarding these changes and we thank you for all of the input. We take your suggestions seriously and will continue to work to improve your concert-going experience. If you have any further ideas, please do not hesitate to write us at: Summer Concert Series, Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206. Thank you for coming this year. We look forward to offering you great acts next summer.



Helping Hands Volunteers



This year's Holiday Gift & Garden Market on November 10 and 11 will feature many different hand-crafted and unique gifts.

Cover Story: Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Nature Preserve (formerly Chatfield Arboretum)

Come to the 12th annual Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Nature Preserve on Saturday, October 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pick your favorite pumpkins from a five-acre pumpkin patch. The pumpkins come in all shapes and sizes, and are priced accordingly. Bring your wagon or wheelbarrow to carry your pumpkins and then leave them in the pumpkin daycare while you enjoy the festival, which will feature over 50 craft and food vendors. KOOL 105FM radio will entertain with music and prizes galore. The five-acre Corn Maze will also be open for your entertainment.

There will be many activities for children, including a hay bale maze and hayrides provided by FRAPA (Front Range Antique Power Association). FRAPA will also have antique farm equipment on display and demonstrations of how their equipment works. The Presenting Sponsor of the Pumpkin Festival is TrailMark a Shea Homes-Simeon Community and the media sponsor is KOOL 105FM.

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve

Have you been a-mazed at the Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve? Now in full swing, the Corn Maze is astonishing visitors of all ages with its twists, turns and dead ends. The five-acre maze forms a sunflower shape that can be viewed from above by adventurous maze-goers from atop two viewing bridges. Corn patrol volunteers are on hand to assist anyone who needs help, and educational displays are set up in a Yurt, which is a modern update of a nomadic Mongolian round tent. Younger children are also enjoying their very own hay bale maze.



Once you reach the marigolds, you've completed half of the five-acre Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve, which is open until October 31.

What: Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Nature Preserve.

When: Saturday, October 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: Members — \$2 for adults and \$1 for youth 3-15, Nonmembers — \$4 for adults and \$2 for youth 3-15. Children 2 and younger and youth 3-15 dressed in costumes get in free. For the day of Pumpkin Festival only, combination tickets for admission to both Pumpkin Festival and Corn Maze will be available at a cost for members of \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth 3-15. Nonmember prices will be \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth 3-15.

Where: Chatfield Nature Preserve, located at 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road in Littleton, just south of C-470 off of Wadsworth Boulevard.

Contact: For more information or to volunteer for the Pumpkin Festival, call 303-973-3705.

What: Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve.

When: September 2-October 31.
Monday-Thursday 4-9 p.m.; Friday 4-10 p.m.;
Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Cost: Members — \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth 3-15, Nonmembers — \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth 3-15. All children 2 and younger get in free. Tickets may be bought at the maze or in advance at Denver Botanic Gardens, Chatfield Nature Preserve and select King Soopers stores. Call 303-973-1694 for specific store locations.

Where: Chatfield Nature Preserve, located at 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road in Littleton, just south of C-470 off of Wadsworth Boulevard.

Contact: For more Corn Maze information, call 303-973-1694. To Volunteer for the Corn Maze, call 303-331-4011.

The Corn Maze was designed specifically for Denver Botanic Gardens in the shape of a sunflower by The MAiZE, owned by nationally-known corn maze creator Brett Herbst. Herbst began his first cornfield maze in Utah in 1996, which attracted more than 18,000 attendees in three weeks. The MAiZE is now the world's largest cornfield maze company, with 60 affiliated sites around the world this season. In addition to Herbst's innovative creation at Chatfield Nature Preserve, there is a second MAiZE site eight miles south of Greeley, Colorado in La Salle. The Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve is managed by Marsha Temple with Creative Meeting Solutions.



The Tawny Tones of Autumn

As autumn works its seasonal magic at Denver Botanic Gardens, the West Pond and the Laura Smith Porter Plains Garden present scenes of subtle beauty that should not be missed. For the past two years, a transformation has taken place that makes the area a wonderful destination for visitors and urban wildlife.

Improved pathways invite exploration and discovery of a wealth of native plants that capture the prairie habitat that once defined our high plains region. The marginal plantings that now embrace the West Pond with native wetland species reflect the mellow bronze and golden colors of the season in the water. Prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), Rocky Mountain rush (*Juncus saximontanus*) and sedge (*Carex nebraskensis*) are some of the wetland plants that now enhance the setting of the pond



Dan Johnson

The fabulous fall colors of the West Pond provide a visual delight in any season.

and provide transition to the adjacent gardens. Wood piers and comfortable benches invite a relaxing break for quiet observation of the plants and animals that thrive here.

The seed heads of flax (*Linum perenne* ssp. *lewisii*), beardtongue (*Penstemon* spp.) and gay feather (*Liatris punctata*) are reminders of the colorful spring and summer in the Plains Garden as they sway in a sea of native grasses burnished lemon-gold for the fall. Lavender drifts of prairie aster (*Machaeranthera canescens*) continue blooming as the days shorten and clumps of big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) punctuate the landscape with their coppery red colors. The rock outcrop that defines the western perime-

ter of the Plains Garden features large specimens of leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*) with fine textured leaves turned yellow for the autumn. There was a time when this landscape prevailed where our city now reigns. Here, we preserve a part of our natural heritage that continues to be displaced by development.

Tranquility presides as ducks patrol the pond and migrating birds enjoy the abundant feast the prairie provides. Lucky visitors sometime catch a glimpse of fox or heron in the more secluded western areas of the Gardens. The season is indeed magical and strikes a much different mood than autumn scenes elsewhere throughout the Gardens. The tawny tones of this landscape are subtle rather than exuberant, and a grand example of nature resplendent in the season of seed and future promise.



© Jim Havey

The Laura Smith Porter Plains Garden.

New Garden Update — Featuring Native Plants

Native plants and habitat set the stage for several new gardens at Denver Botanic Gardens. Wildflower Treasures showcases Colorado native wildflowers in a plaza setting adjacent to the water lily pond and the Monet Garden. A series of handsome container troughs designed by renowned rock gardener Gwen Kelaidis, feature rare and endangered species of plants that represent the native flora of many Colorado counties.

Surrounding the amphitheatre, Western Panoramas builds on the theme of Lauren Springer's popular Roads Water-smart Garden situated south of the Conservatory. The three new gardens, Ponderosa Border on the east, Bristlecone Border on the south and Cottonwood Border on the west, reveal compositions of plants that exemplify artistic expression and promote ecologically sound horticulture for Rocky Mountain region gardens.



The planting of the new Wildflower Treasures garden took place in late August. The garden features troughs filled with wildflowers and plants native to Colorado.

Plant Portrait: *Sorbus scopulina*



Panayoti Kelaidis

The spring flowers of *Sorbus scopulina* become large, rich red clusters of berries in the fall.

Indian paintbrush and red elephants paint vast canvases bright red and purple in our mountains, but most species in both genera are resistant to any kind

of cultivation. Conversely, our native mountain ash (*Sorbus scopulina*) is the most delicate waif imaginable in our mountains, often misshapen and inconspicuous when not in fruit and hardly a plant you would consider trying to grow. The specimens of this same tree in the Rock Alpine Garden and the Gates Montane Garden have quickly become robust, vigorous trees that are veritable focal points among the thousands of outstanding ornamentals these gardens contain. Obviously, a plant's performance in native habitat is not always an accurate measure of what it can achieve in a garden.

Our native mountain ash resembles the popular European mountain ash superficially, but the differences are telling. Although small in nature, our species promises to eventually become a larger plant (a 20-year-old specimen is already 30 feet tall and growing). Its shape is more upright, and both the

flower panicles and fruit are almost twice as large as its European cousin. The bark is every bit as lustrous and shiny, and the fall color is a flaming orange with red and yellow overtones—only our wise native loses its leaves a month or more earlier than the exotic, which proves to be a clever strategy most years.

I have always thought even European mountain ash somewhat underused in Colorado, and unfortunately our native is practically unknown. Only a few native plant nurseries in the west even offer mountain ash plants, and they are tiny and often sold out. Seed from the spectacular specimens in our garden are being grown in large numbers by several local nurseries and tested in more sites. This could one day provide a new landscape tree of tremendous year-round beauty, and native to boot!

Panayoti Kelaidis, Curator of Plant Collections

October

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve, September 2-October 31

Get lost in the Corn Maze at Chatfield Nature Preserve, a five-acre sunflower-shaped maze. The Corn Maze is open from September 2-October 31 during the following hours: Monday-Thursday, 4-9 p.m.; Friday, 4-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The cost for members is \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth 3-15. Non-member prices are \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth 3-15. All children 2 and younger get in free. Tickets may be bought at the maze or in advance at Denver Botanic Gardens, Chatfield Nature Preserve or select King Soopers stores-call 303-973-1694 for specific store locations and Corn Maze information.

Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Nature Preserve, October 14

Pick pumpkins from a five-acre pumpkin patch and enjoy craft and food vendors at the Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, October 14 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission price for members is \$2 for adults and \$1 for youth 3-15. Nonmember prices are \$4 for adults and \$2 for youth 3-15. All children two and younger and youth dressed in costumes get in free. See page 2 for information on a special Pumpkin Festival and Corn Maze combination ticket offer. Call 303-973-3705 for directions and Pumpkin Festival information.

Denver Orchid Society Show and Sale, October 14 and 15

The Denver Orchid Society's show and sale will be on Saturday, October 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. Many types of orchids will be on display and for sale, and experts will be on hand to answer questions. Entrance is included with admission to the Gardens. For more information call Keith Funk at 303-234-9290.

Rocky Mountain African Violet Council Fall Sale, October 21

The Rocky Mountain African Violet Council's Fall Sale will take place on Saturday, October 21 from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. Many varieties of African violets will be for sale, experts will be on hand and educational displays will be available. Entrance is included with admission to the Gardens. For

1

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Iris Society Pot Luck

8

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Gift Shop Sale Event
For Members Only

15

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Denver Orchid Society 
Show and Sale
American Begonia Society meeting

22

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

29

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Denver Botanic Gardens
Closes at Noon
Goblins in the Gardens
For Members Only
Create Your Own Herbal Library*

2

Free Day at York Street
Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

9

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Mycological Society meeting
Glass at the Gardens meeting

16

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Garden Structure and Hardscape:
Design, Layout and Detail*
The Seven Principles of Water-Smart
Gardening*

23

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Ultra Violet Club meeting
Color Mixing for Artists*

30

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

3

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Bonsai Society meeting
Beyond Aspirin: An Organic
for the Future*
Botanical Illustration in Pen
Landscape Design Workshop
Portfolio Building for the
Botanical Illustrator*

10

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Colorado Cactus Society
Basics of Rock Gardening*

17

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Bonsai Society meeting
Botanical Illustration in Pen
Soapmaking*

24

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

31

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Colorado Native Plant Society

KEY FOR CALENDAR

Bold magenta type = Gardens events


(K) = Kids Programs

Call 303-370-8020

Bold black type = Plant Society events

Regular black type = Classes

(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Nature Preserve

 = Free to members

* Preregistration is required for all classes. Call 303-370-8020.



DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS TRAVEL ADVENTURES 2001

Welcome to another year of travel adventures with Denver Botanic Gardens. This year we are featuring some very exciting destinations with phenomenal itineraries. Our trips are a great way for you to be able to visit destinations all over the world while learning about ecology, flora, fauna and gardening. You'll find the perfect trip listed for you below. Happy travels!



NEW ZEALAND & TAHITI EXPLORER

FEBRUARY 1-21, 2001

This expedition to the South Pacific Islands begins in Auckland, the "city of sails," and ends in Dunedin, "Rhododendron City of the South Island." Between the two, our route takes us to Orewa, Tiri Tiri Matangi, Rotorua, Christchurch, Fox Glacier, Queenstown, Te Anau and Stewart Island. Along the way, we will visit spectacular gardens and museums and explore wildlife sanctuaries. Hikes will take us through lush and ancient forests, and boat cruises will take us across lakes and along the coast to spy on special bird nesting sites. The trip will be highlighted with a visit to Rotorua, the center of Maori culture and thermal activity, where we will learn about the Maori culture and enjoy a traditional Maori dinner (hangi) and concert.

The land-only price is \$3995 per person based on double occupancy and includes: ground transportation, lodging, NZ inter-island flights, most meals, activities and guiding services. A \$500 deposit is required with final payment due November 1, 2000. The tour is limited to 15 participants. A land/air package from Denver can be arranged with pricing starting at \$5595.

This trip is rated "moderate." Hikes 2-4 miles in duration over uneven terrain can be expected and require moderate physical fitness.

**FOR INFORMATION CALL PAM RATHKE,
DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS' TRAVEL COORDINATOR, AT 303-370-8051.**

ST. LOUIS SPRING FLING

APRIL 26-29, 2001

On this trip destinations will include: the St. Louis Science Center, St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Zoo/Zoological Gardens and the Jefferson Memorial Building. We will tour private homes and gardens and hosted on a special tour and reception at the Missouri Botanic Gardens, plus much more!

Please call for pricing.

This trip is rated "easy." Walking tours of short distance can be expected.



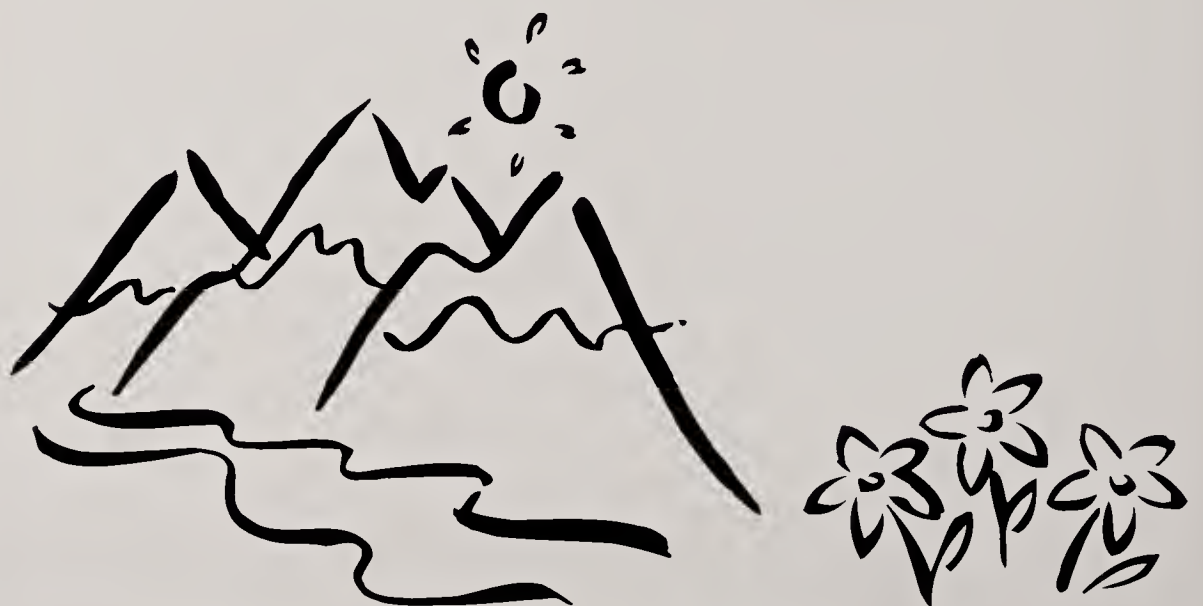
ASPEN WILDFLOWER WEEKEND

JULY 20-23, 2001

Join us for our 9th annual Wildflower Weekend, which will take place in Aspen this year. The weekend will be a combination of wildflower hikes, private garden tours, cultural events, tours of historic sites, private receptions and dinners.

Please call for pricing.

This trip is rated "easy-moderate." Walking tours of short duration and distance can be expected, as well as hikes 1-2 miles in length at tree line.

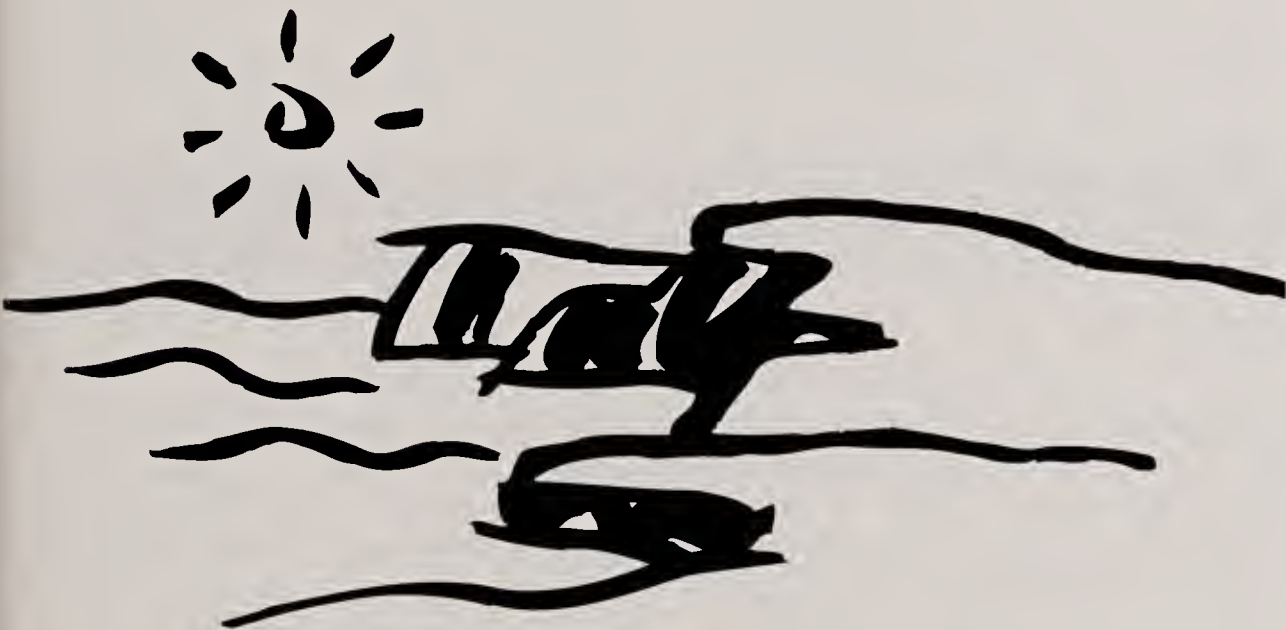


VANCOUVER ESCAPE
AUGUST 22-26, 2001



This trip will primarily focus on the wonderful public/private gardens and sites in and around Vancouver City, such as the Van Dusen Botanical Gardens, Lynn Canyon Park, Museum of Anthropology, Queen Elizabeth Park, Chinatown and the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden. However, this trip would not be complete without a ferry ride to Vancouver Island to visit the Butchart Gardens, the city of Victoria and the Royal British Columbia Museum. The tour will also include cultural events, special receptions and dinners.

Please call for pricing.
This trip is rated "easy." Walking tours of short duration and distance can be expected.





GLORIOUS GARDENS & VILLAS IN LOMBARDY & TUSCANY

SEPTEMBER 5-16, 2001

This tour will begin in the Lake District near Milan, where we will visit the beautifully designed gardens of several 17th and 18th century villas, as well as the Duomo Gothic Cathedral. Traveling to Florence will provide us with visits to private and public estates and gardens, the Pitti Palace, Uffizi, the Academy, Boboli Gardens, Medici Chapels and many other sites. Throughout the tour we will visit historic churches, castles, monasteries and Roman ruins, as well as museums and galleries. Special receptions, dinners, wine tasting and concerts are also planned. Our personal Italian guide will be Rosalynd Pio di Savoia, a garden/art historian. Our host will be Denver Botanic Gardens' Julie Loquidis, art historian and former perennial curator at the Gardens.

Please call for pricing.

This trip is rated "easy." Walking tours of short duration and distance can be expected.

A DELUXE HORTICULTURAL SAFARI TO KENYA

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 13, 2001

(OPTIONAL TANZANIA EXTENSION OCTOBER 13-20, 2001 — SEE BACK PAGE)



This trip will be a safari plus! From the temperate forests of Mt. Kenya to the semi-desert plains of the Masai Mara, Kenya is rich in plants, trees and shrubs found nowhere else in the world. The trip will include visits to Kenya's best game parks and along the way, expert guides will share their knowledge of the flora, fauna and culture. Special tour highlights include: a visit to Giraffe Manor, the home of Betty Leslie-Melville, noted conservationist and author of *Raising Daisy Rothschild*; a unique nighttime game drive; visits to local gardens, flower markets and a commercial flower farm; several flights over incredible landscape; and a visit to lifetime resident Sue Deverell, the current chairperson of the Limuru Branch of the Horticultural Society. Our farewell dinner will be at the home of a prominent Kenyan resident/gardener where we will have a chance to listen to fascinating stories of life in Kenya. Accommodations will be deluxe tented camps and lodges.

The land-only price is \$4395 per person, based on double occupancy and includes: ground transportation, deluxe lodging, three in-country flights, most meals, activities and guiding services. A \$500 deposit is required with final payment due June 1, 2001. The tour is limited to 15 participants. A land/air package from Denver can be arranged with pricing starting at \$5495.

This trip is rated "easy-moderate." Walking tours of short duration and distance can be expected, as well as hikes 1 mile in length on uneven terrain.



TANZANIA EXTENSION (POST KENYA TRIP)

OCTOBER 13-20, 2001

The Tanzania extension departs Nairobi for Lake Manyara National Park on October 13. Before heading to the Ngorongoro Crater, the second largest volcanic crater on earth, we'll enjoy a drive to the lake where we can view wildlife and many bird species. We'll visit the Serengeti, which is home for over one million animals and a once in a lifetime experience.

The price of the extension is \$2595 per person, based on double occupancy and includes: ground transportation, deluxe lodging, in-country flights, most meals, activities and guiding services. A \$300 deposit is required with final payment due June 1, 2001 (a minimum of 5 participants is needed).

This trip is rated "easy-moderate." Walking tours of short duration and distance can be expected, as well as hikes 1 mile in length on uneven terrain.



TRAVEL INFORMATION

TRIP ACTIVITY RATINGS

In an effort to help you decide which trip is right for you, we have created an activity rating scale: "Easy" trips generally involve walking and/or light hiking for short durations and distances over gentle terrain. "Moderate" trips can involve hiking for 2-6 miles over more challenging terrain and can also involve other activities geared to beginning level and up. "Strenuous" trips involve activities that require excellent physical fitness and can include hiking 5-10 miles a day over varied terrain.

RESERVATIONS AND PRICING

Denver Botanic Gardens' trips fill very quickly, so we advise early registration. If you would like additional information, such as a detailed itinerary, or would like to register for a tour, please call Pam Rathke, Denver Botanic Gardens' Travel Coordinator, at 303-370-8051.

All prices are based on double occupancy, a minimum number of participants and may be subject to change.

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

4

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
4-22 Travel Adventure:
China Explorer

5

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Resources for Horticulture
Therapy Programs - Series III*

6

Free Day & 11 a.m. tour
Chatfield Arboretum
Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve



7

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Gift Shop Sale Event
For Members Only
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers mtg.
Fall Fervor — Weathering Winter
in Your Garden*
Ornamental Grasses
Field Trip Section I*
Ornamental Grasses
Field Trip Section II*

11

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Botanical Illustration in Colored Pencil I*
Botanical Illustration in Colored Pencil II*
Open Studio for Botanical Illustration*

12

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Denver Rose Society meeting
Gardener's Ecology (Certificate Class)*

13

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Denver Botanic Gardens' Guild
Dried Flower Workshop

14

Pumpkin Festival
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Denver Orchid Society
Show and Sale
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging
Shaker Herb Garden Pantry Gifts*
Winterize Your Rose Garden*

18

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
North American Rock Garden
Society meeting
Herb Society meeting

19

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
New Member Party
For Members Only

20

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

21

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Rocky Mountain African Violet
Council Sale
Tree Walks - Field Trip at
Hudson Gardens*

25

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

26

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Gardeners of America meeting

27

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve

28

Corn Maze
at Chatfield Nature Preserve
Denver Botanic Gardens
Closes at Noon
Goblins in the Gardens
For Members Only
Botanical Illustration in Watercolor II*
Easy Herbal Soapmaking*

VISIT CHATFIELD NATURE PRESERVE THIS MONTH



CORN MAZE THROUGH OCTOBER 31
PUMPKIN FESTIVAL OCTOBER 14



Denver Botanic Gardens 2000

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Gardens events 303-370-8187
Plant Society events 303-370-8097

Goblins in the Gardens

Trick or Treat! Don't forget to mark your calendars on October 28 and 29 for "Goblins in the Gardens." This fun event for children promises to be a scream. Children of all ages will enjoy a friendly haunted house, crafts, games, candy, refreshments and much more. Look for invitations, which will arrive in the mail soon. Reservations are required and space is limited, so don't forget to reserve your spot early.



© Jim Havey

Attention Kids! Be sure to wear your costume to the Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Nature Preserve on October 14 — you'll get in free.

We're Wild About Wild Flowers

Support Denver Botanic Gardens and celebrate Wild Flowers' fifth anniversary at the same time. Visit Wild Flowers — At Home With Nature, a local store that features nature and gardening-related items, and make a \$5 minimum donation to our Horticultural Therapy Program. Your donation will automatically enter you into a drawing to win gift certificates to Wild Flowers. In addition, the money will help fund our Horticultural Therapy Program, which teaches people how to use plants to maintain good physical and mental well-being. Stop by Wild Flowers at 1201 Madison or call 303-333-4050 for more details.

Members-only Gift Shop Sale Event

On Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8, members will receive 20% off all regularly priced items in the Gift Shop. You can take advantage of this special offer from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. on both days. In addition to being able to get some early holiday shopping done, you'll also be supporting the Gardens as all proceeds from the Gift Shop benefit our programs.

Travel Adventures

See the insert in this newsletter for information on our 2001 trips, which include excursions to New Zealand, Kenya, Vancouver and more.

Members Receive Discounts to Special Events at Chatfield Nature Preserve (formerly Chatfield Arboretum)

As a member of the Gardens you receive many benefits that apply to both Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Nature Preserve (formerly Chatfield Arboretum), which is operated by the Gardens. Chatfield Nature Preserve is a large area in Littleton that features wetlands, grasslands and native flora and fauna. In addition, it is the site for some of our biggest special events this year: the Corn Maze and Pumpkin Festival. Both of these events are fun for the whole family.

The Corn Maze is a new event this year that opened September 2 and will entertain visitors through October 31 with a challenging five-acre sunflower-shaped Corn Maze. Admission prices for members to the Corn Maze are \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth 3-15.

Pumpkin Festival is an annual event, which occurs on October 14 this year. On this exciting day, people of all ages will be able to pick pumpkins and enjoy food and craft vendors and entertainment. Entrance to the Pumpkin Festival for members is \$2 for adults and \$1 for youth 3-15. All children two and younger get in to both events free. Youth 3-15 dressed in costumes on the day of the Pumpkin Festival will also be admitted free of charge. See page 2 for information on a special Pumpkin Festival and Corn Maze combination ticket offer.

Be sure to bring your current membership card with you to these events to receive the discounted rate. Also, remember that as a benefit of your membership, you receive free admission to both Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Nature Preserve during regular operating hours, excluding ticketed events.

John Hickenlooper: A Terrific Supporter of Denver Botanic Gardens

John Hickenlooper, Chairman of Wynkoop Brewing Co., holds the record for purchasing the largest number of birdhouses in the six years BirdHaus Bash has been held. In addition, John's company, Wynkoop Brewing Co., has donated many kegs of Wynkoop brew for the opening night of BirdHaus Bash. While John's many friends have reaped the benefits of his purchases over the past six years as gifts, this year even more people, and especially children, will benefit from his generosity. Recently, John purchased and donated 60 birdhouses from this year's BirdHaus Bash back to the Gardens. His donated birdhouses have made the Children's Secret Path a festive place for children and birds alike. And, his generous donations over the years have supported the Gardens' research, education and conservation programs. Thank you John. Denver Botanic Gardens is very grateful for your generosity and support.



John Hickenlooper displays several of the birdhouses that he purchased at this year's BirdHaus Bash.



The Romantic Gardens.

Funding For New School Program

Denver Botanic Gardens is pleased to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Musser Fund of Minneapolis, MN. This grant will help develop and launch a new school program at Chatfield Nature Preserve. Through this program, third through fifth grade students from Denver area schools will have an opportunity to immerse themselves in science, history and nature during extended visits to Chatfield Nature Preserve. We're grateful to the Musser Fund for their investment in this program.

Benefit The Gardens

Your lifetime gifts to the Gardens have left your touch in the flowerbeds, classrooms, research, conservation efforts and even high in the splendid reaches of Mt. Goliath. By including Denver Botanic Gardens in your will, you can continue to leave your imprint throughout its many glorious nooks and reaches. Please call Carmen Neu, planned giving manager, at 303-370-8077, for information on the many ways you can structure your estate plans to benefit the Gardens as well as your heirs.

Memorials and Tributes

In memory of Sheilagh Malo
Garden Club of Denver

In memory of Paul M. Whitman
Mr. & Mrs. Harlan H. Holben

In memory of Mrs. Robert (Virginia) Appel
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Silversmith

In memory of Mr. William Nichols
Mrs. Linda Roberts Zinn

In memory of Joan (Noney) Scherwitz
Mr. & Mrs. Harlan H. Holben

In memory of Opal Bunnell
Ms. Phyllis Van Engen

In memory of Fernanda de Lellis Peterson
Mrs. Linda Roberts Zinn

In memory of Mrs. Edwin A. Francis
Mr. & Mrs. Ib Falk Jorgensen

In honor of Priscilla McClintock
Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Howey

In honor of Leo & Linda Goto
Ms. Marsha Richardson

Special Fall Lecture

As a continuation of the Gardens of the World theme, which focuses on our many gardens that contain plants from all over the world and our efforts to teach others about world-wide gardening, we are pleased to welcome Thomas Newmark and Paul Schulick to the Gardens.

Mr. Newmark and Mr. Schulick will be sharing information about Luna Nueva, a tropical ginger farm in Costa Rica. The farm, situated at the edge of the beautiful and pristine Children's Rain Forest in Costa Rica, is a 74-acre organic estate that embraces permaculture design and biodynamic practices. Fields of "blue ring" ginger, the primary crop at Luna Nueva, are interspersed with areas of natural growth, herbs, and many animals and butterflies, reflecting the owner's commitment to environmental preservation and nutrient-enhancing growing practices.

Join us as Newmark, a researcher and writer on herbal medicine, and Schulick, a researcher, lecturer and formulator of natural therapeutic products, give us an inside look at the Luna Nueva farm and the medicinal value of "blue ring" ginger. The lecture will be on Tuesday, October 3 from 7-9 pm. The cost is \$13 for members and \$19 for nonmembers. For more information or to register, please call 303-370-8020.



Above right: Thomas Newmark and Paul Schulick will be sharing information about Luna Nueva, a tropical ginger farm in Costa Rica, at the Gardens on October 3.

Above: "Blue-ring" ginger is the primary crop at Luna Nueva.

Come See the New Yurt at Chatfield Nature Preserve

A modern, Mongolian, 30-foot Yurt was recently donated by Advance Canvas Design to Denver Botanic Gardens to be used for education space at Chatfield Nature Preserve. So what is a Yurt? It's a portable, circular, clear span dwelling developed hundreds of years ago in Central Asia. Contemporary Yurts utilize modern materials and fabrics to improve on the age-old design. The Yurt at Chatfield features a dome, French doors, roofing material similar to the roofing fabric used at DIA and is engineered to withstand heavy snow-loads and winds of over 125 miles per hour. The Yurt will be open year-round at Chatfield and is currently being used to display educational information for the Corn Maze.

Front Range Biodiversity Program

Denver Botanic Gardens has joined with the Butterfly Pavilion, Colorado History Museum, Colorado's Ocean Journey, Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Denver Zoo to present a comprehensive look and greater appreciation of the natural diversity of Colorado's Front Range, from both a current and historical perspective.

This special all-day program, designed for both the general public and teachers, will expand your understanding about the plants and animals living along Colorado's Front Range. Plant and animal communities in Colorado's foothills, plains and riparian ecosystems will be discussed in both their historical context and in their current state. Speakers will provide general background information, as well as discuss current issues, emphasizing positive steps that can improve the richness and variety of the life around us.

Lively and intriguing, this program is important for anyone interested in how our lives are impacted by decisions made about future uses of natural resources. The symposium will be held October 21 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Ricketson Auditorium at Denver Museum of Nature & Science. The cost is \$45 for the general public and \$70 for teachers seeking re-certification. To register, please call the Denver Museum of Nature and Science at 303-322-7009.

In conjunction with the Front Range Biodiversity Program, Denver Botanic Gardens will be hosting both an all-day workshop and a field trip for those who are interested in further exploration. On Sunday, October 22 a workshop given by staff from both the Gardens and the Butterfly Pavilion will discuss "Plant and Insect Interactions." You will learn about the interrelationships between plants and insects as you discover the unique interactions of two kingdoms that depend upon each other for survival. The workshop will be held at Denver Botanic Gardens from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The cost is \$35 for both Gardens and Butterfly Pavilion members, \$45 for nonmembers and \$60 for teachers seeking re-certification credit.

A field trip will also take place on Sunday, October 22 for those interested in experiencing the diversity of Colorado's Front Range directly. Expert naturalists will lead walks, which will take you through the plains, foothills and Riparian communities near Denver, helping you discover the variety of plant and animal life adapted to these ecosystems and the interactions that maintain this diversity. The field trip will be from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The cost is \$35 for Gardens and Museum of Nature & Science members, \$45 for nonmembers and \$60 for teachers seeking re-certification. Please call 303-322-7009 to register for either the workshop or the field trip.



Corny Questions



- What is the shelf life of corn?
Archeologists have been able to pop 1,000-year-old popcorn.
- What is the only continent where farmers do not grow corn? *Antarctica.*
- What are the different ways that corn can be cooked? *Roasted, toasted, smoked, steamed, parched, dried, pickled, cut into kernels for soups, succotash and stews and scraped to make "milk" for puddings, dumplings and breads.*
- How many cans of pop can one bushel of corn sweeten? *325.*
- How do you make a corn nut? *Heat the corn in a vessel until the corn cob becomes very hot and pops.*
- Who created some of the first corn-cooking pots? *The Inca Indians.*
- Does anybody drink corn? *Yes. Pinole and atole are common drinks in Central and South American made from ground, toasted corn mixed with water and pepper.*

Susan Eubank, Senior Librarian

These questions were gleaned from:

Fussell, Betty. "The story of corn." New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992. SB 191 .M2 F8 1992 (which can be found in the Gardens' library) and "The wonderful world of corn" from the Web site <http://www.corn-fieldmaze.com/facts.html>

Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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*Come to the
Holiday Gift
&
Garden Market*

November 10 and 11, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Find the perfect gift for everyone on your holiday shopping list.

A variety of vendors will be selling a world of gifts, including Televera pottery from Mexico, crafts from the Appalachian Mountains, local homemade items, garden gifts, candy, pottery, candles, cards, journals, snacks, holiday decorations and ornaments, dried flowers, jellies, spreads, spices and salsas, jewelry and much more!

Admission is free.

Denver Botanic Gardens, Mitchell Hall, 1005 York Street.
Call 303-370-8049 for more information.

Green Thumb News

www.botanicgardens.org

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Editor: Rachel McKinzie Designer: Julie Rudofsky

Hours for October-April

Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

General information 303-331-4000

TDD 303-370-8032

Dr. Green plant information 303-370-8068

Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Planttalk® (24-hour) 1-888-666-3063

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Special events information 303-370-8187

Corn Maze information 303-973-1694

Development 303-370-8055

Volunteering 303-370-8049

Chatfield Nature Preserve 303-973-3705

Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Nature Preserve are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

On the cover: Pumpkin, Jim Havey.

Green Thumb News

November 2000



**36th Annual Holiday Gift & Garden Market
Cover Story on Page 2**



News from the Executive Director

November is the month that we look back over the successes of the past year and anticipate the excitement to come. Plant growth has almost slowed to a standstill and yet almost everything still looks good. You can see fall colors with a covering of frost on the statuesque and lifeless remains of our plants, along with a wealth of subjects for imaginative photographers and a reminder of just how far we have come in the past twelve months.

Last November, the first of our new gardens, which involved replacing the blue grass along York Street, was completed under the direction of Gardens designer and installer, Tom Peace. The news was out that Denver Botanic Gardens was beginning to change. We went quiet over the winter and then the arrival of spring coincided with a systematic clearing out of what we politely called "over-mature" gardens.

By June, the first blow to our confidence came with criticism from our vis-

itors that the gardens looked a mess: they were right and we asked for patience. We were working as hard as we could to replace bare earth with our new plantings which we could finally afford after financial support came in from our Board.

July saw the first accolades: our signs saying "you'll love this garden" were supplemented by visitors saying "we love this garden."

August culminated in our "black-tie" fundraiser, the Fête des Fleurs, with some 500 happy attendees, many on their first visit to the Gardens for many years. Bruce Alexander, our Board President, and I were bombarded with compliments from everyone. "I can't believe what you have done in the past months." "I have never seen the Gardens looking better." It was a heartening evening in so many ways.

So, what's in store during the next 12 months? The gardens installed in 2000 will mature and begin to look their

best. New gardens will be built and, most importantly, the process of fine-tuning the whole site will take place so that we really look our best for the entire year of our 50th birthday. I won't say "you ain't seen nothing yet," because you have seen it already. What you are witnessing is Denver Botanic Gardens taking its rightful and confident place as one of the finest gardens in the world. We hope you'll feel the pride we do in this place you so generously support.

Last year I wrote about 1999 as a spectacular year for numbers: attendance, membership and events, to name a few. 2000 has been another spectacular year and membership numbers are better than ever. However, our real achievements have been in the appearance of the Gardens, and you will see many more great achievements within the next year.

Brinsley Burbidge, Executive Director



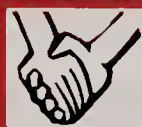
Thank You Volunteers

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Gardens for the Fall Plant Sale, Goblins in the Gardens and at Chatfield Nature Preserve for the Corn Maze and Pumpkin Festival. This fall was busy at both sites, and we could not have been successful without all of your help.



Employee of the Month

Congratulations to the October Employee of the Month, Chelin Salaz, Assistant Executive Secretary. Chelin goes above and beyond her normal call of duty to help out on last minute projects that frequently arise. She takes it upon herself to see the entire project through to completion and ensure that all details are taken care of. Chelin does all of this with a very positive and extremely customer-focused attitude.



Helping Hands
Volunteers

Cover Story: Holiday Gift & Garden Market



Michelle Masters' Topiary Art will be available for purchase at the Holiday Gift & Garden Market. Choose from stationary, cards, journals, tote bags and more.

Denver Botanic Gardens' volunteers are proud to present the 2000 Holiday Gift & Garden Market. This is the perfect opportunity for you to support our fundraising efforts, as proceeds from the sale benefit programs such as research and education at the Gardens.

The items you have found at the Holiday Gift & Garden Market for the past 36 years remain a part of this sale. However, we encourage you to explore a new fabulous collection of items that are not only hand crafted, but also gathered from some of the best offerings of holiday market showrooms across the country.

Shop for everything from simple red berries to beaded garlands and swags to big baskets and rusted metal pieces for both indoors and outdoors. Gather gifts and ideas from the available merchandise and be creative in your shopping. Our volunteers are proud to be able to plan this event that supports the Gardens. The sale will take place Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Members receive a 10% discount on all purchases. Call 303-370-8049 for more information.



Buy edible holiday gifts at the Holiday Gift & Garden Market.

Teddy Bear Teas and Holiday Concerts Replaced

In an effort to achieve our mission of "connecting people with plants," this year's Teddy Bear Teas and Holiday Concerts have been cancelled. Instead, we will be highlighting festive holiday displays that feature a unique horticulture twist. We are confident that these new displays will become a tradition to look forward to each year. We apologize for any disappointment this may cause, and encourage you to come to Blossoms of Light to see the horticultural improvements in this year's winter displays.

Holiday Events

Blossoms of Light will be opening soon. From December 2-31, every night from 6-9 p.m., visitors will be able to enjoy holiday lights throughout the Gardens, along with seasonal entertainment. Members will have the chance to preview Blossoms of Light at our annual Herald the Seasons event on November 29 and 30. The grand opening for the event will be on Friday, December 8. This evening will feature seasonal music by two caroling groups and complimentary hot chocolate and cookies.

We will offer some delightful surprises this year. Emphasizing horticulture and plants, you'll see amazing natural seasonal displays throughout the Gardens. Huge containers filled creatively with holly, berries, pinecones, trees and other types of holiday foliage will make a welcoming presence in the Lobby Court. Outside, trees and plants will be highlighted with beautiful colored lights. Nightly holiday entertainment, wonderful plant arrangements and a gorgeous light display will make your experience at Blossoms of Light one to remember.

Joedy Arnold, Volunteer Coordinator

Remarkable Research Achievements

The beginning of the new millennium has been an exciting and active time for Denver Botanic Gardens' Research Department. Many new projects and partnerships have been developed in the plant conservation arena, and the Plant Records division is making great strides in garden interpretation with new plant labels and online collections information.

Since the early 1990's our Plant Conservation team has been working with many federal agencies to monitor rare plants and provide ecological data. Now it is time to take the next step. This year marks the beginning of two exciting new projects: an experimental reintroduction of a rare Gentian (*Eustoma grandiflorum*) to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, and the initial groundwork for a prairie restoration project at Chatfield Nature Preserve. Both projects are designed to augment and protect biodiversity, while providing empirical data on plant reintroduction and habitat restoration. The conservation team continues to work with the National Park Service at Rocky Mountain National Park to create a herbarium of the park's vascular plants and conduct rare plant surveys as part of the National Park Service's revegetation and restoration projects.

A little closer to home, dramatic changes are occurring in Plant Records. Recently, the Herb Garden received the first shipment of the new photo-engraved plant labels. The new signage is elegant, easy to read and provides more information than the previous labels. This past year also saw the Gardens' main plant database go online. Using the World Wide Web, it is now easy to search the Gardens' living plant collection and herbarium specimens. Andrew Doran, Plant Records Manager, is now the official international registrar for Nymphaeaceae (Waterlily Family) for the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society. This position places Denver Botanic Gardens at the focal point for the registration of new waterlily cultivars and will provide the Gardens with many new plant specimens for display and preservation in the Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium.



Our research team caught in action: setting up a habitat study site near Kremmling, Colorado

During September, Dr. Carol Dawson, Director of Research, presented a talk on rare plant reintroductions and the influence of invasive species at the International Meeting of the Society for Ecological Restoration in Liverpool, England. The Research Department also presented posters on specific demographic studies at the Third Southwestern Rare Plant Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona. The Center for Plant Conservation recently published a new book entitled "America's Vanishing Flora" that tells the story of a rare plant from each state. Information on the plant *Astragalus osterhoutii*, was included in the book. This plant is part of one of Denver Botanic Gardens' research projects and is this month's Plant Portrait.

Carol Dawson, Director of Research

Flavors of the Season



Salvia officinalis [PurpurascensGroup]

November is the month of Thanksgiving, with a ceremonial feast that celebrates the bounty of nature's agricultural gifts. Gardeners are especially attuned to savor the irresistible aromas and tastes that hallmark the traditional fare that has come to symbolize this favored holiday.

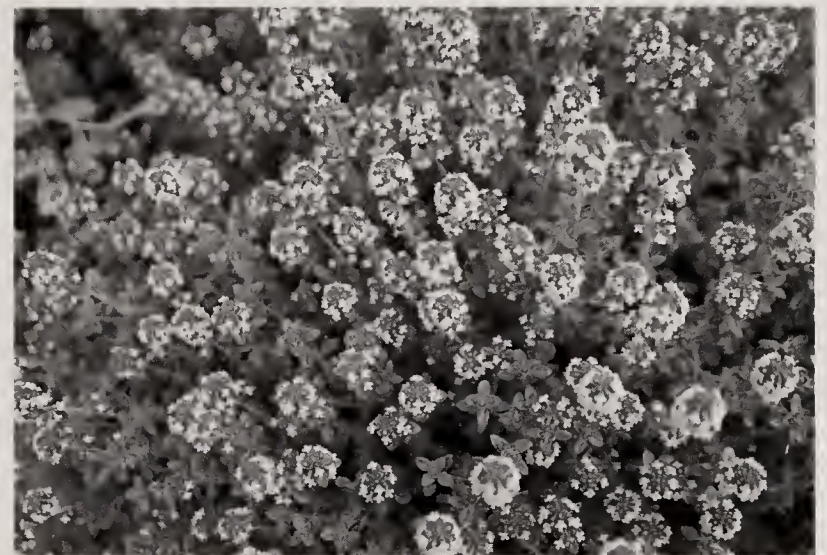
Denver Botanic Gardens' Herb Garden holds a treasure of plants that

add their distinctive flavors to foods of the holiday season. Two species that serve the kitchen tastefully are thyme and sage, but their appeal to the gardener goes beyond the culinary. These are handsome ornamentals that clothe the garden well into the festive months of winter. The soft leaves of sage (*Salvia officinalis*

[PurpurascensGroup]) and finely textured foliages of thyme (*Thymus vulgaris* L.) are abundant along the curved brick paths of the Herb Garden and offer up their aromatic essence with a brush of the hand. Their persistent and often ever-green foliages are beautiful as they adapt to cooler tem-

peratures and shrug off showers of snow.

Think of Thanksgiving and take a stroll through this interesting garden with its collection of intriguing and useful plants. Take special notice of the thymes and salvias, the unsung heroes of both the garden and table.



Thymus vulgaris L.

Plant Portrait: *Astragalus osterhoutii*

In 1905, while collecting plant specimens around the town of Kremmling, Colorado, amateur botanist George Osterhout discovered a new species,



Astragalus osterhoutii in Grand County, Colorado.

Astragalus osterhoutii. Commonly called Osterhout's milkvetch, this species has only been found in a 15 square mile range surrounding Kremmling.

This long-lived perennial is a member of the Pea family (Fabaceae) and has received federal protection as an endangered species due to its small population size, limited distribution and unique characteristics. Since the late 1980's, Denver Botanic Gardens' Research Department has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver Water and private land owners to determine how to best protect the rare milkvetch in light of the construction of a reservoir near the large population of Kremmling. To protect the plant and its habitat, fences were installed and proposed recreational facil-

ities were redesigned. In addition, Denver Botanic Gardens received funding to conduct scientific experiments and population monitoring studies.

Since 1993, demographic monitoring has provided information about the species' life history and reproductive characteristics. An experimental habitat manipulation study has provided critical information on seedling establishment in relation to soil disturbance and competition with sagebrush and crested wheatgrass, an invasive species. We have strongly supported the protection of *Astragalus osterhoutii* and continue to provide essential biological data that is necessary for the long-term conservation of this species.

Tom Grant, Research Assistant

November

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

**November 10 and 11,
Holiday Gift & Garden Market**

Come to the 36th annual Holiday Gift & Garden Market on Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Many unique and hand-crafted items with an international flair will be for sale. Choose from a large selection of holiday gifts—perfect for everyone on your shopping list. Members receive a 10% discount on all purchases. Call 303-370-8049 for more information.

November 19, Rocky Mountain African Violet Council Judging School Lecture

Attend a lecture provided by the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council Judging School on Sunday, November 19 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The lecture is free. For more information, contact Fran Ratte at 303-582-5497.

November 29 and 30, Herald the Season

Members get the first chance to preview Blossoms of Light on Wednesday, November 29 and Thursday, November 30 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Enjoy holiday lights, seasonal entertainment and refreshments. The cost is \$7 per person and free for children 5 and younger. Reservations are required. For more information, call 303-370-6674.

December 2-31, Blossoms of Light

Don't miss a winter wonderland of holiday lights at Blossoms of Light from December 2-31, every evening from 6-9 p.m. Stroll through 23 acres of illuminated plants and trees and enjoy nightly holiday entertainment and seasonal refreshments. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth 6-15. Children five and younger are free. For more information, call 303-370-8187.

December 2, Volunteer Appreciation Reception

Volunteers are an essential and important part of Denver Botanic Gardens. We have many wonderful volunteers who have contributed much of their time and efforts to events, tasks and jobs this past year. To thank you for your contribution, we will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Reception on December 2. Invitations will be mailed, but for more information, you may call 303-370-8049.

KEY FOR CALENDAR

Bold red type = Gardens events


(K) = Kids Programs

Call 303-370-8020

Bold type = Plant Society events

Regular black type = Classes

(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Nature Preserve

 = Free to members



5

6

7

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting

12

13

14

Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society meeting

19

20

21

Mile High Daylily Society meeting
American Begonia Society meeting
Therapeutic Herbal Foot Baths*

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting

26

27

28

Ultra Violet Club meeting



Blossoms of Light

Presenting sponsor



December 2-31, 2000 6 to 9 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens becomes a winter wonderland during its annual Blossoms of Light holiday celebration December 2 - 31. Don't miss this holiday tradition, which has become a Colorado favorite, offering families a festive, entertaining holiday activity.

Outside, the Gardens will be glowing with more than 250,000 twinkling lights outlining trees and shrubs. Inside, the Lobby Court will feature an impressive collection of winter topiaries and Tropical Botanica will offer a tropical escape. Nightly entertainment — carolers, bell ringers, dancers and other musical groups — will add even more holiday cheer each evening, and seasonal refreshments will be available for sale. The Gift Shop, stocked with holiday cards, ornaments and unique gardening gifts, will be open each night until 8:45 p.m.



Adults, \$7; Seniors (65 & older) and youth 6-15, \$5;
Adult members, \$5; Senior and youth members, \$3;
Children 5 and younger, FREE

Tickets for Blossoms of Light

Mail in your order today to avoid lines at the Gardens. Tickets will also be available at the main gate from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily and in the evening from 6 – 9 p.m. (Ticket box office will be closed on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 25.) Group rates are \$1 off each ticket and are available for parties of 20 or more. Call 303-370-8021.

Mail Order Form — Return to Blossoms of Light, 909 York Street, Denver, CO 80206

DBG Membership No. _____

_____ adult (\$7) _____ child (\$5) _____ member adult (\$5) _____ member child (\$3)

Total \$ _____ **(add \$2 handling fee per order for credit card orders)**

Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Daytime Phone			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check or money order enclosed (payable to Denver Botanic Gardens — BOL)			
Please charge my tickets to		<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> MASTER CARD
Card Number	Exp Date		
Signature			

Orders must be received by November 22 in order for tickets to be mailed to you by December 2. Tickets are good for any night December 2 – 31. For questions, please call 303-370-8021.

1

2

Orchid Workshop*
Plant Names for Gardeners*

3

Free Day & Drop-in Tour
Chatfield Nature Preserve



4

Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers mtg.

8

9

10

11

Holiday Gift & Garden Market

Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging

15

Herb Society of America meeting

16

Ikebana International meeting

17

18

High Country Judges
Workshop meeting

22

23

Denver Botanic Gardens and
Chatfield Nature Preserve
closed for Thanksgiving

24

25

All Natural Face and Skin Care*

29

30



Herald the Season
for members only





Herald the Season

Be the first to see this year's Blossoms of Light.

Enjoy holiday desserts, musical entertainment, children's crafts and activities and stroll through a spectacular display of indoor and outdoor holiday lights.

November 29 and 30 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$7 per person

5 and younger are free

Reservations will be accepted by mail. Please send name, address and phone number along with a check or Visa/MasterCard information to: Herald the Season, 909 York Street, Denver, CO 80206.

*Be sure to include the date you want to attend as well as the number of people attending. Confirmation Cards will be sent. For more information, call 303-370-6674.

A Wonderful Gift Idea

Having trouble finding the perfect gift for someone special this holiday season? Give a Denver Botanic Gardens' membership—a gift that will last the whole year. Simply call 303-370-8029 with your Visa or MasterCard number and we will send a gift announcement for you. Gift giving has never been so easy. In addition, for each NEW gift membership purchased in November or December, we will include a certificate for your choice of a free glycerine soap or two packets of bath salts (up to \$5 in value) from our Gift Shop. Call today.

Thank You Membership Volunteers

This year's Fall Plant Sale and members Plant Dividend Days in September ran very smoothly thanks to the many volunteers and staff who worked extra hours at the sale. This cooperative effort makes events at the Gardens successful and a lot of fun.

Mountain, Plain and Garden on Hold

Please note that we do not plan to publish our magazine, *Mountain, Plain and Garden* this winter. We recently conducted a survey with members regarding our publications and are currently evaluating a more informative, impactful and cost-effective way to communicate to our members.

Tax Deductions for 2000

The tax deduction you may take depends on the amount you paid for the membership less its "Fair Market Value." The Fair Market Value in 2000 for Gardener, Landscaper and Arbor Circle levels is \$10; Botanist Club is \$60; Conservator's Society is \$110; and Perennial Partners is \$213.



DBG TRAVEL ADVENTURES

WILDflower Hiking!

In August, Denver Botanic Gardens members had a thrilling time searching for meadows of wildflowers in the Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia via Helicopter. These glacial carved valleys exploded with heather, glacier lilies and paint brush. Moose, bear and bighorn sheep were seen during the wonderful mountain hikes. The group also explored the beautiful areas around Lake Louise, Moraine Lake and Emerald Lake. Santa Fe photographer, Charles Mann, accompanied the group to provide expert tips for the "shutter-bugs." If there is enough interest, this trip will be offered again from August 1-9, 2001. There will be a maximum of 10 participants. If you would like more information, please call Pam Rathke, Travel Coordinator, at 303-370-8051.



Leave Bonds to Denver Botanic Gardens

Everyone seems to have some U.S. savings bonds tucked away some place. Savings bonds may be subject to heavy federal income taxes and state and federal "death taxes" in a person's estate. For example, heirs who receive \$100,000 in savings bonds from your estate may have to pay income tax on \$50,000 or more of built-up interest. Furthermore, the full \$100,000 could be subject to federal estate tax of 37% to 55%, leaving them with only a fraction of the value.

You can erase all taxes on savings bonds at death by changing your will or revocable living trust to specifically leave bonds for our benefit. Savings bonds that Denver Botanic Gardens receives pass 100% free of estate taxes and, as a tax-exempt organization, we would owe absolutely no income taxes on the bonds. In other words, every dollar could be used for the Gardens, in contrast to the shrunken after-tax amount that would be available to other beneficiaries. These tax benefits may allow you to do more for the Gardens' future than you might have thought possible.



Jennifer Darling and her new son, Andrew.

Welcome Back Jennifer

Jennifer Darling, Director of Development and Membership, is back hard at work after spending a few months at home with her new son, Andrew Thomas Darling. Andrew misses having Mom at home, but we are pleased to have Jennifer back to direct the myriad of development and membership details.

Treasure Pleasure

Thanks to Lake Valley Seed, children can take extra pleasure in completing the Children's Secret Path because a treasure chest full of seed packets awaits them at the end of the path. Children are welcome to take a packet of seeds with them for free and start their own garden at home. We would like to give a big thank you to Lake Valley Seed, located in Boulder, for donating the seed packets and making our Children's Secret Path even more of a special treasure for children.

Grant Helps Make Japanese Garden Accessible

The Mabel Y. Hughes Trust recently awarded Denver Botanic Gardens a \$25,000 grant to improve accessibility in the Japanese Garden. This generous gift will ensure that all of our guests can enjoy the beautiful garden throughout the year. Thank you Mabel Y. Hughes Trust.



Brilliant container arrangements like this one were a big hit at this year's Fête des Fleurs. Look for seasonal holiday arrangements, which will be appearing during Blossoms of Light.

Memorials and Tributes

In memory of Joan Merrick

Denver Botanic Gardens' Guild

In memory of Nell Borden Young

Charla G. Cannon

In memory of Martha Keene Taylor

Diana Braden

In memory of Dorothy L. Hoskins

Jane M. Wainwright

In memory of Dorothy King

Rpbert & Wilma Johnson

In memory of Helen Dearing

The Lee Hill Family

In memory of Claudia Carlock

Jefferson County Human Services

Judy, Bill, Dave, Mike, Alisa & Max Batton

In memory of Faye Dowling

Tina, Don, Brad & Betty Joseph

Karen & Jim Cavalier

In memory of Bert H. Kleigel

Ethel Tartarsky

In memory of Bernice Logan

Mrs. Betty Shaw

An Abundant Year in the Community Gardens



As the Community Gardens at Denver Botanic Gardens came to life once again this summer, the northeast part of the Gardens was teeming with fruit, vegetables, insects, families, children, fun and community.

This season we worked particularly hard on enhancing our Harvest Share program. In this program, organic food grown on site is donated to The Empowerment Program, The Gathering Place and Project Angelheart, who receives the bulk of the herbs and vegetables. Thanks to the dedication of many volunteers, this program has been going on in the Community Gardens for several years, and each year the donated yields increase.

Starting with spinach (*Spinacia oleracea* L.) and lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* L.) in the spring, through pumpkins (*Cucurbita maxima* Duchesne) and corn (*Zea mays* L.) in the fall, donations reached an all-time high this year. The increase was due in part to the generous efforts of

over 200 community gardeners who filled coolers with their extra produce week after week. The abundance is also due to a new volunteer program that began in the Community Garden this season. In early spring, 15 plots were set aside for use as food donation plots. These 10 x 15 foot pieces of earth were tilled, planted, maintained and harvested throughout the season by an extremely dedicated core of organic gardening volunteers. These volunteers came once a week to water the plots and met as a group every Wednesday for harvesting.

If you have wanted to grow organic vegetables but lacked the time to tend a community garden plot of your own, consider joining the volunteer group in spring 2001. The upcoming year will be an even more prolific season for Harvest Share as an entire section of the



Community Gardens will be dedicated to serve as the Harvest Share "Urban Farm." This farm-style layout will make the logistics of the food growing easier, as well as allow a chance to rotate crops, companion plant, enhance the soil, test different organic fertilizers and much more. In addition to the volunteer group, we hope to bring in local high school students to help with all aspects of food growing and donating.

Other great plans are also in the works for the Community Gardens. We will be out in early spring getting the earth ready, so bring your garden hoe and join us, or just stop in to sample the abundance. For more information on our Community Gardens, call Estee Flemming at 303-370-8067.



The Garden Plot

From the Library

Do you add thyme to your turkey stuffing? Thyme is one of the most common seasonings used in soups, meat dishes, fish and with vegetables. Thyme has also been used medicinally and as an antiseptic and preservative. There are 66 species of thyme native to Europe and another 290 species in greater Eurasia. Culinary thyme is native to the dry hills of southern Europe along the Mediterranean. The blossoms are famous for the honey they produce. In ancient Greece soldiers bathed in water infused with thyme oil for courage, strength and vigor. The Egyptians first used thyme for embalming, and its use for that purpose continues to this day. While thyme can be enjoyed in moderation, beware of excessive use of thyme oil internally because it can poison. It can also irritate the skin. Come see the different species and cultivated varieties of thyme in our Herb Garden. As you eat your Thanksgiving meal, give thanks to humble thyme and all its uses.

The books used to create this article are available in the Helen Fowler Library at Denver Botanic Gardens, including the following:

Bremness, Lesley. 1988. *The Complete Book of Herbs*. Viking Studio Books. New York SB 351 H5 B7 1988

Rinzler, Carol Ann. 1990. *The Complete Book of Herbs, Spices and Condiments: From Garden to Kitchen to Medicine Chest*. Facts on File. New York. TX 406 R54 1990

Rosengarten, Frederic, Jr. 1969. *The Book of Spices*. Livingston Publishing Co. Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. TX 406 R664

Stry, Frantisek and Vaclav Jirasek. 1973. *Herbs: A Concise Guide in Colour*. Hamlyn. London. QK 99 A1 S83 1973

Stobart, Tom. 1973. *The International Wine and Food Society's Guide to Herbs, Spices and Flavorings*. McGraw-Hill. New York

Interpretation Program Underway

A new position entitled Interpretation Manager, was recently created in the Education Department and filled by me, Julie Loquidis, previously Perennials Curator. I am now in charge of coordinating both the connection and directional communication systems at the Gardens in order to improve our current interpretation system.

The connection part of interpretation at the Gardens involves storytelling. The stories will be historical, scientific, artistic, horticultural, cultural, informative, thoughtful, surprising and provocative. Stories will be told through a combination of media such as staff and guides, permanent and temporary signage, and/or audio and videotape.

The shape and design of the connection signage will give visitors clues about the information presented on a sign. For example, there may be a scientific message on a sign in the shape of a microscope; an artistic message on a sign in the silhouette of a palette and brush; and a historical message on a sign that resembles an open book. The same motifs may also be used as badges worn by guides and icons on touch-screen computers.

In addition to developing connection communication systems, I am also working to create effective directional signage. Directional signs are designed and placed so visitors can easily determine pertinent information about the Gardens, such as hours of operation or the locations of public areas (telephones, classrooms, etc.).

The functions of the two interpretation systems are different, but by developing the look and feel of each system simultaneously, a certain cohesiveness will evolve. The two types of signs will be distinguishable from each other by shape, color, size and/or decorative motif, while still presenting a unified look.

These are examples of ideas generated by a team of staff, consultants and community members as we undertake the task of determining the interpretive plan. As the process of developing and implementing the plan proceeds, input by Gardens' members will be helpful. If you would like to participate in the evaluation of interpretation at the Gardens, please contact me via e-mail at loquidij@botanicgardens.org.

Julie Loquidis, Interpretation Manager



Signs that were placed throughout the Gardens this summer not only named the garden, but also displayed flags to represent which countries' plants were featured in that specific garden.

Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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Gift Shop

Get your holiday gifts in our Gift Shop. We are now featuring Garden Gear authentic gardening clothing. Choose from overalls, cardigans, t-shirts, hats, smocks, pants, vests and aprons to fulfill all your gardening clothing needs. Many other items are also featured in the Gift Shop, including gardening tools and books, pots, cards, soaps, candles, candy and much more. Come into the Gift Shop, open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



Green Thumb News

www.botanicgardens.org

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Editor: Rachel McKinzie Designer: Julie Rudofsky

Hours during October-April

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General information **303-331-4000**

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Volunteering 303-370-8049

Chatfield Nature Preserve **303-973-3705**

Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Nature Preserve are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

On the cover: *Mahonia repens* Oregon grape holly

Green Thumb News

December 2000



Blossoms of Light
Cover Story on Page 2



News from the Executive Director

This is the month that we take time to thank all our wonderful volunteers for the service they give to the Gardens with a Volunteer Appreciation Reception — a small reward for the massive support they provide us. We wouldn't be able to do the many things we do without this army of committed and enthusiastic supporters. Many of you have "high profile" roles such as the great team that works with Nora Simmons in the Gift Shop. Others work so assiduously behind the scenes that it is easy to confuse them with staff.

As an example, when I first arrived at the Gardens I assumed that the cheerful Grant Downer, whom I frequently met in the workshop, was an employee. A little later he tackled me about the need for a Cushman cart for our operations staff to move materials around the Gardens and I, understandably, assumed he was a member of staff asking for resources. It was only later when I made a casual remark about how effective he was at lobbying for support that I was

told that Grant was a volunteer. Grant, congratulations on being just one of a truly remarkable group of people who are so deeply wired into the Gardens that the only thing that distinguishes you from the rest of us is that we don't give you a paycheck.

Volunteers are so much more than a source of willing labor. You are truly our eyes and ears in the community. If you love us, and we hope you do, you can tell everyone you meet about the great place at which you volunteer. Though we hope that all the news is good, you may hear grumbles about something we have done and let us know about what's being said. This helps us to respond far more rapidly than any survey of our visitors could do. You bring us new members and introduce us to so many other sources of support that you are the best public relations operation we could possibly have. Thanks so much for all your support. You are indispensable.

Brinsley Burbidge, Executive Director

Mr. John C. Mitchell II Remembered

As many of you may have heard, Mr. John C. Mitchell II, a life member of Denver Botanic Gardens' Board of Trustees and former President, passed away October 8, 2000. John's service and dedication to Denver Botanic Gardens spanned nearly its entire history, helping to build the firm foundation that has made the Gardens what it is today.

John was a major force in the formative years of the Gardens, helping to guide its direction and secure important gifts for the construction of the Education Building. To honor his perseverance, the Boettcher Foundation requested that the lecture hall in the Education Building be named Mitchell Hall.

As a Life Member of the Board of Trustees, John served as President from 1968 to 1979, longer than any other Board President in our history. John was also one of the founding members of Denver Botanic Gardens' Endowment Board, which he served on continuously from its inception. John will be sadly missed by Denver Botanic Gardens.



Helping Hands Volunteers



This has been a fabulous year full of many changes at Denver Botanic Gardens. Many volunteers have generously given their energy and commitment to help support the staff and these changes. How could we have done it without all your efforts? To thank you and recognize your contributions, we have planned a celebration in your honor. Please come to a **Volunteer Appreciation Reception** on Saturday, December 2 from 4-6 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. Bring your family and enjoy the reception, including complimentary refreshments and entertainment, as well as Blossoms of Light, which will begin at 6 p.m. For information, call 303-370-8049.



Employee of the Month

Congratulations to the November Employee of the Month, Harriett McMillan, Horticulture Information Specialist. Harriett's vast knowledge about plants and people is constantly demonstrated through exceptional and above-and-beyond interactions with co-workers, media, volunteers and the public. Her warm smile and calming demeanor make her a pleasure to work with and a wonderful asset to Denver Botanic Gardens.

Cover Story: *Blossoms of Light*

This year's Blossoms of Light display promises to be a stunning collection of winter topiaries, dried floral arrangements and over 250,000 glittering lights — a display that will delight the whole family. 100,000 feet of new lights will enhance the southern edge of the Gardens, thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, Xcel Energy Foundation; Major Corporate Sponsor, Subaru of America; and the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

Ground lighting will be added to highlight our newly planted gardens, while new lights will illuminate our Conservatory, which houses Tropical Botanica. A special emphasis this year will be placed on expressing the natural elegance of the shapes of plants and the styles and characteristics of our gardens.

Inside the Lobby Court area you'll be amazed by a white wonderland of flowers and foliage. Tropical Botanica will feature fiber optic lights and other horticultural enhancements. Children will especially enjoy our annual train display, which will wind its way around Marnie's Pavilion, located just west of Tropical Botanica.

Nightly entertainment, including choir groups, bell ringers, dancers and other music groups will provide the sounds of the season, while the Gift Shop will offer hot drinks and sweets that are sure to quench your tastebuds. You can also browse through a wonderful selection of holiday and gardening gifts in the Gift Shop, open each night until 8:45 p.m. Avoid the nightly ticket lines to Blossoms of Light and buy your tickets in advance from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at our main gate. For more information, call 303-370-8187.



The group, Gamelan Tunas Mekar, will perform at the Gardens on December 19.



Above left: The beautifully lit Monet Garden. Above right: Entertainers from the Colorado Country Cloggers will perform on December 28.

BLOSSOMS OF LIGHT

DECEMBER 2-31, EVERY EVENING FROM 6-9 P.M.

"Light Up Your Holidays" Celebration, Friday, December 8.

Member prices: \$5 for adults, \$3 for youth 6-15 and free for children 5 and younger (look for a members-only coupon for free admission on page 7).

Nonmember prices: \$7 for adults, \$5 for youth 6-15 and free for children 5 and younger.

More than 250,000 twinkling lights, nightly entertainment, seasonal refreshments for sale and holiday gift items available for purchase in the Gift Shop.

It's All In the (Plant) Family in Tropical Botanica

It's been two years since the redesign and planting of Tropical Botanica, and an amazing transformation continues to take place. The plan of this tropical landscape called for as wide a variety of unique and spectacular specimens as were obtainable, with special emphasis on several interesting plant families. These "collections" of plants are now more established and provide an exhibit with many unique and beautiful characteristics. A wide range of differing forms, growth habits and plant size, in combination with varying colors and textures of foliage and flowers, reward the observant eye.

Approximately 1,000 plants represent 90 plant families within the exhibit. The Palm, Ginger, Aroid and Bromeliad families have the greatest number of individual specimens and many are indeed exceptional. Here are a few to watch for on your next visit:



Neoregelia cartharodon 'Albo-Marginata.'

Kerriodoxa elegans is a stunning fan palm with large fan-shaped leaves of bright green with silvery undersides and shiny black leaf stalks. The overall height of the plant is a mere three feet, however its leaves span five feet and definitely command attention.

Curcuma, a genus of plants in the Ginger family (Zingiberaceae), are robust tropical perennials that grow from rhizomes (tuberous roots) and are normally dormant from November through May. Commonly known as hidden lily, they offer a remarkable sight when they emerge in foliage and flower. The handsome, long-stalked, ribbed leaves set off splendid inflorescences consisting of 12-to-16-inch-long cone-like spikes with showy, iridescent bracts that enclose small yellowish flowers.

Alocasia is one of the most beautiful genera within the Araceae family, often known as "Aroids." Familiar plants in this group include Dieffenbachia, Spathiphyllum and Philodendron. The unique foliage of *Alocasia veitchii* and *Alocasia* 'Polly' catch the eye as you walk the paths of Tropical Botanica. Both feature long, arrow-shaped leaves up to three-feet with gleaming silver-blue foliage and distinct silver veining. *A. sanderiana* 'Polly' adds a silver margin to the leaves and a maroon coloring to the undersides, making it even more intriguing.

One of the largest and most beautiful plant collections at Denver Botanic Gardens is the Bromeliad collection. Bromeliads are displayed throughout Tropical Botanica and include the familiar pineapple plant. The replica banyan tree is home to numerous species that grow as epiphytes, clinging to its trunk and branches. A visit to the top deck of the banyan brings *Neoregelia chacharodon*



Alocasia 'Polly.'

'albo-marginata' into view, sitting high on an outstretched branch. The broad green leaves outlined with hot pink margins are hard to miss.

One of the challenging aspects of this extraordinary interior space is the ongoing synchronization of the heating, cooling and humidification systems that maintain the ideal parameters of a tropical climate. Tropical Botanica stands as a world-class exhibit designed to enlighten and delight all who enter its misty, breathtaking atmosphere.

Gary Davis, Bromeliad Curator

Luscious Lobby Court Displays



White phalaenopsis orchids dominate a backdrop of boxwood.

In the midst of the expansion of the Education Building, the Lobby Court continues to transition with the seasons through displays that welcome visitors and delight the eye. The autumn scene featured the fall foliage of maple and aspen along with an assortment of perennials and grasses that evoked the quiet, informal style of a Japanese residential garden.

Under the guidance of Ebi Kondo, Environmental Horticulturist, Perennials and Design, the Lobby Court has now taken on a winter theme that will carry through the holiday weeks ahead. To accompany the pool and waterfall, the winter display garden calls on the textured and evergreen foliages of boxwood, yew, arborvitae and English ivy to define the geometric structure of a formal-walled garden in the English style. Within the garden, the white flowers of paper white narcissus, amaryllis, azalea and Phalaenopsis orchids create a pristine counterpoint to the green tapestry of hedges, trees and shrubs. Constructed topiaries of moss, evergreen foliage and seasonal fruit provide artistic focal points throughout the garden.

For the future, Ebi is planning a series of seasonal displays that showcase plants in unique and intellectually stimulating settings. Visitors can look forward to a delightful array of spring bulbs in late winter, and a whimsical, colorful and very tropical “pink flamingo garden” that will follow in early spring. With a world of plants as his canvas, Ebi designs lobby gardens that capture attention and create excitement.

Plant Portrait: *Medinilla*



Medinilla magnifica.

Two members of the genus *Medinilla* grow in Tropical Botanica at the perimeter of the pool. Both of these beautiful plants exhibit handsome foliage and color in their clusters of flowers and persistent bracts. Native to the tropical climate of

Malaya, *Medinilla scorteichinii* often grows as an epiphyte and is rarely found in cultivation. Look for it in a planting pocket on the north wall above the pool. The bright coral stems, flowers, bracts or berries of this plant are hard to miss as they are very consistently in color.

In close proximity, *M. magnifica* (Rose grape) presides at the foot of the banyan tree approaching the elevator. Large, thick, leathery leaves with prominent veins set off grapelike panicles of pink flowers followed by pink berries. *M. magnifica*, native to the Philippines, also provides an on-going colorful display of either flowers or fruit.

These tropical shrubs are named in honor of Jose de Medinilla y Pineda, an early governor of the Mairanas Islands. They are members of the Melastomataceae family. Other members of the genus are found in Southeast Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

Gary Davis, Bromeliad Curator

December

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

December 2, Volunteer Reception

We will host a Volunteer Appreciation Reception on Saturday, December 2 from 4-6 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. This special reception is given to honor our many volunteers and their families for all the time and efforts they contribute to the Gardens. Volunteers, please join us in celebrating you on this special evening. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided. You'll also be able to enjoy the Blossoms of Light holiday display at your leisure. For more information, call 303-370-8049.

December 2-31, Blossoms of Light

The annual Blossoms of Light holiday celebration will be held from December 2-31, every evening from 6-9 p.m. 23 acres lit up with more than 250,000 twinkling lights creates a magical winter wonderland, enjoyable for the whole family. Nightly entertainment sets the tone for a wonderful holiday evening, and seasonal refreshments available for purchase completes the event. The Gift Shop also features a variety of holiday and gardening gifts. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth 6-15. Children five and younger are free. Members receive a \$2 discount per ticket. For information, call 303-370-8187.

December 8, Blossoms of Light

Join us for our "Light Up Your Holidays" celebration of Blossoms of Light on Friday, December 8 from 6-9 p.m. As you stroll through the Gardens, glowing with holiday lights, enjoy seasonal entertainment, complimentary cookies and hot chocolate. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth 6-15. Children five and younger are free. Members receive a \$2 discount per ticket. For more information, call 303-370-8187.

January 24, Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series Helen Dillon: Garden Artistry

At this lecture, Helen Dillon will offer a personal, intimate and passionate account of the pleasures of gardening in small spaces, based on her 30 years of experience in gardening in a small town house in Dublin, Ireland. Helen is also a garden artist and an author of numerous books, including "In an Irish Garden," "The Flower Garden" and "Garden Artistry." The lecture will take place at two sessions Wednesday, January 24 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The cost for members is \$16 and for nonmembers is \$20. For information or to register, call 303-370-8020.

KEY FOR CALENDAR

Bold green type = Gardens events


(K) = Kids Programs

Call 303-370-8020

Bold type = Plant Society events

Regular black type = Classes

(CH) = Classes at Chatfield Nature Preserve

 = Free to members

Blossoms of Light December 2-31		
3 Blossoms of Light Iris Society Board Meeting	4 Blossoms of Light	5 Blossoms of Light Bonsai Society meeting Colorado Native Plant Society
10 Blossoms of Light	11 Blossoms of Light	12 Blossoms of Light Garden Club of Denver
17 Blossoms of Light	18 Blossoms of Light	19 Blossoms of Light
24 Blossoms of Light	25 Blossoms of Light Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Nature Preserve closed 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Gardens open for Blossoms of Light 6-9 p.m.	26 Blossoms of Light
31 Blossoms of Light		

Denver Botanic Gardens Charitable Gift Annuity Program

A Gift That Gives Back

A charitable gift annuity is a gift that pays you, or someone you designate, income for life. By transferring assets to Denver Botanic Gardens' charitable gift annuity program, you create a meaningful gift to the Gardens, receive guaranteed income from the Gardens for the rest of your life and are allowed a generous tax deduction.

The rate of your annuity is fixed at the time the gift is made and is based on the size of your gift, your age and prevailing rates. For example, a 65-year-old making a \$10,000 gift would receive a 7% annuity, or \$700 a year, while a 90-year-old donor would receive 12% of the gift annually. Rates for two lives—joint and survivor—are slightly less; the Gardens would be happy to provide you with current annuity rates.

By creating a charitable gift annuity with Denver Botanic Gardens you benefit in several ways:

- You make a meaningful gift to the Gardens.
- You or someone you designate receives lifetime income from your gift.
- You are allowed a substantial immediate charitable income tax deduction.
- Under many circumstances, a significant portion of the annuity income is tax-free.
- Capital gain tax liability on long-term appreciated securities used to fund a gift annuity is often reduced by approximately half. Not only does this result in immediate tax savings, but the remaining capital gain income to be reported is pro-rated over your lifetime, which may be

- You may defer the start of annuity payments to accommodate your current and future financial situations. Nevertheless, you receive an immediate tax deduction and a higher annuity rate when your payments start.
- A gift annuity is a simple contract between you and Denver Botanic Gardens.

Here are two examples:

Mrs. Anderson, age 75, makes a \$15,000 gift of cash to the Gardens' charitable gift annuity program. The following annuity and tax implications would apply:

Income from the gift: \$1,230 annually (tax-free portion: \$679)
 Annuity rate: 8.2%
 Charitable tax deduction the year the gift is made: \$6,581

Mrs. Anderson makes a \$15,000 gift with appreciated securities that she paid \$7,500 for five years ago. The following annuity and tax implications would apply:

Income from the gift: \$1,230 annually (tax-free portion: \$339)
 Capital gain at 20%: \$339 (ordinary income: \$552)
 Annuity rate: 8.2%
 Charitable tax deduction the year the gift is made: \$6,581



For more information, or to participate in the Gardens' charitable gift annuity program, please call Carmen Neu at 303-370-8077.

Blossoms of Light

Gift Shop



Give the gift of gardening this holiday season and support Denver Botanic Gardens at the same time.

Remember to shop at Denver Botanic Gardens' Gift Shop during the holiday season. You will not only come home with unique items for the gardeners in your life, but will have also supported Denver Botanic Gardens. The shop features many unusual and lovely gift items with a gardening theme. We

also have a large selection of books, tools and clothing for both the experienced and novice gardener.

Gardens members always receive a 10% discount on purchases. All proceeds from the Gift Shop go directly back to the Gardens to support our horticulture, education, research and conservation programs. Our winter hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and 6-8:45 p.m. during Blossoms of Light.

Nora Simmons, Retail Services Manager



Give the Gardens as a Gift

A Denver Botanic Gardens membership makes a great holiday gift, and it's a gift that will continue to please throughout the year. To order a gift membership using your VISA or MasterCard, call 303-370-8029. The person receiving your thoughtful gift will enjoy nature and beauty throughout the year in Tropical Botanica, in the serene Japanese Garden, in our lush summertime plantings and at the wonderful plant society shows and sales. Gifts to NEW members will include a certificate to our Gift Shop for a choice of a free fragrant glycerin soap or two herbal bath packets (value up to \$5).

Tax Deductions for 2000

The tax deduction you may take depends on the amount you paid for the membership less its "Fair Market Value." The Fair Market Value in 2000 for Gardener, Landscaper and Arbor Circle levels is \$10; Botanist Club is \$60; Conservator's Society is \$110; and Perennial Partners is \$213.

Year 2001 Calendar

It's the perfect gift — a calendar full of beautiful pictures of the Gardens. The Year 2001 Calendar, "Rooted in the Past Flowering for the Future," celebrates the year of our 50th anniversary and is available for you to buy. It mails easily, fits anyone's taste and provides a beautiful gift useful year-round. The calendar is available in the Gift Shop, along with many other holiday and gardening gifts, for \$9.95.

Blossoms of Light 2000

Use this coupon to receive free admission to one night of Blossoms of Light for two adults and two children. Be sure to bring this coupon and your current membership card to the main gate to be admitted to the event, which is open every evening from 6-9 p.m. December 2-31. This coupon cannot be used for Herald the Season. One coupon per membership please. Coupon valued up to \$16.



Dear Friend,

Did you visit Denver Botanic Gardens this year to see the most beautiful display of plants ever? Your donation made it happen. With your continued support, the Gardens will be bigger and better in 2001.

Over 23 gardens were transformed in 2000 to create expanses of color, form and texture, offering the best in gardening for the Rocky Mountain region. Positive comments from our visitors and members have been overwhelming. Here is just one of many examples:

"Denver Botanic Gardens has been transformed from interesting and beautiful to the GREATEST garden in the world. The city is indebted to all of you who've brought vision, ambition and lots of hard work to accomplish the metamorphosis."

We found the vision, ambition and staff to handle all the hard work, but we could not have succeeded without you and your contribution. There is still so much to do. Our continued vision includes transforming more gardens into visual and interpretive masterpieces of which you can be proud. And horticulture is only one priority. Our education, conservation and research programs are also key to our mission.

Please help us attain our vision of being a premier organization offering our community and region the tools and knowledge to appreciate and protect Rocky Mountain horticulture. Thank you.

Warmest regards,



Rob Proctor, Director of Horticulture

P.S. Your year-end gift will help us step confidently into the future.

____ Yes! I want to help the Gardens grow!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$_____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ My payment is enclosed (checks payable to DBG)

Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Account Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Denver Botanic Gardens Annual Fund, 909 York St., Denver CO 80206

Memorials and Tributes

In memory of Claudia Carlock

Mr. & Mrs. Boyd Bissell
Mr. & Mrs. Chauncey Morse
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Allen
Mr. Don Brooke

In memory of Faye Dowling

Ms. Anne L. White
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Newman
Ms. Vella Courtney
Ms. Lee Stinebaugh
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Brunnett

In memory of Lois Collins

Ms. Ivy Fails
Ms. Syd Glick

In memory of Marcille Doty Peterson Brown

Ms. Phyllis Van Engen

In memory of Florence Middleton

Margaret Wallace
Ms. Syd Glick

In memory of Anna Curry

Ms. Margaret Wallace

In memory of L. Clark Tierney

Ms. Louise Hurlbut
Mr. & Mrs. Newell M. Grant
Mr. & Mrs. William Chenoweth
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Ashton
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Luce
Mr. James L. Cunningham
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. John Stamper
Ms. Wendy Trigg
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Baldwin
Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert Anderson
Junior League of Denver, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Richardson
Ms. Holmes Flint
Mr. & Mrs. J. Landis Martin
Ms. Cynthia Hilb & Mr. Andrew Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Keith, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Debord
Ms. Betty Boyd Kinkead
Town of Bluefield, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. Ellsworth R. Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Noyes Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Alan F. Fox

In memory of Charles Hamner

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hastedt

In memory of Mary Elizabeth Rheem

Ms. Virginia Clanahan

In memory of Sheilagh Malo

Mr. & Mrs. Newell M. Grant
Ms. Lois S. Robertson
Mrs. Benjamin Stapleton
Dr. & Mrs. F. A. Garcia

In memory of V. K. Morey

Mr. Edward Morey
Ms. Karen Morey Kennedy
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Stephens
Mrs. Frank E. Simon

In memory of Harlan Richards

Ms. Syd Glick

In memory of Ginny

Joan & Geraldine Lundsberg

In memory of Chester Becker

Mr. & Mrs. Mackintosh Brown

In memory of James Gonzalez

Ms. Anastasia Kalamaros Skalski

In honor of Margaret Foderaro

The Broadmoor Garden Club

Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series Is Back

We are pleased to announce the continuation of the Bonfils-Stanton Lectures Series 2000-2001, coming to you with an international flair. A group of world-renowned speakers will delight and inspire you as they share information about topics that range from the challenges of gardening in small spaces to the history of Italian gardening.

The lecture series began in October 2000 as Dennis Cathcart, owner of Tropiflora in Florida, discussed the use of tropical plants in home gardens and interior landscape. The series resumes January 24, 2001, when Helen Dillon, an avid plant collector and author from Dublin, Ireland, will give a personal, intimate and passionate account of the pleasures and challenges of gardening in small spaces.

A well-respected lecturer and author, Guy Cooper comes to the Gardens February 28 to share the eccentric and extravagant visions of gardeners who have incorporated their dreams and fantasies into their gardens. On March 28, Ethne Clark, who specializes in the history of landscape design, will give a brief overview of a variety of Italian gardens and a history of Italian gardening, with a special emphasis on the "livable" landscape design of Tuscan gardens.

The series concludes on April 25 as Thomas Hobbs, proprietor of Southlands Nursery in Vancouver, discusses the drama of color and inclusion of exotic-looking plants to go beyond conventional garden design and create an innovative garden of singular allure. Each lecture will be presented at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. To register, you may complete the order form next to this article and send it to the indicated address.

The 2001 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series



Use this form to register by mail for one or all of the lectures. Please make your check payable to Denver Botanic Gardens and mail this form to: Denver Botanic Gardens, Education Department, 909 York Street, Denver, CO 80206-3799.

The lectures are open to the public. Member fees are \$16 per lecture. Nonmember fees are \$20 per lecture.

Please indicate the number(s) of individuals attending each lecture:

Wednesday, January 24 **Helen Dillon: Garden Artistry**

_____member(s) _____nonmember(s) ☐ 10 a.m. ☐ 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 28 **Guy Cooper: Gardens of Obsession — Eccentric and Extravagant Visions**

_____member(s) _____nonmember(s) ☐ 10 a.m. ☐ 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 28 **Ethne Clark: The Italian Garden — A Singular Passion**

_____member(s) _____nonmember(s) ☐ 10 a.m. ☐ 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25 **Tom Hobbs: Shocking Beauty — Innovative Garden Designs**

_____member(s) _____nonmember(s) ☐ 10 a.m. ☐ 7 p.m.

Name _____

DBG Member ID _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Daytime Telephone _____

☐ Check

☐ VISA

☐ MC

Credit Card Number _____

Signature _____

Exp. Date _____

Special needs: _____ Interpreter



The Garden Plot

From the Library

Susan Eubank's (Yewbank) News About Yews

The yews in our current holiday lobby display are not only intriguing to the eye, but to the mind as well since they have a unique and interesting history. For many years yews have been deemed sacred plants because of their use both ornamentally and symbolically.

Yew is a very fine, hard-grained wood that can be polished to a hard, high luster. The natural habitat of a yew has been greatly reduced in modern times, but individual trees in Britain are thought to be over 4,000 years old.

European yew (*Taxus baccata*) was originally distributed over almost all of Europe. The oldest known object made out of yew is a spear found in Essex, England. It is thought to be 50,000 years old.

It has been theorized that the groves of yew trees throughout England were planted so that the wood could be used for arrows. The plant was also used in England ornamentally, as Henry VIII instigated the use of yews as hedge plants and as topiary. This tradition continues today and is demonstrated in our own Lobby Court displays.

Come to our Helen Fowler Library to learn about yews and their history, as well as many other plants and plant related topics.

The information in this article was summarized from:

Hartzell, Hal, Jr. 1991. "The Yew Tree: A Thousand Whispers." Hulogosi: Eugene, Ore. QK 494.5.T25 H3 1991

The Healing Power of Plants

As thoughts turn to a season of giving, we need look no further than Denver Botanic Gardens' Center for Horticultural Therapy Studies. It's here that students from all over the country are trained in a field that gives back to so many. Students who attend classes return to their own communities and bring the therapeutic world of plants to the elderly, disabled and those at risk, therefore enriching their clients' lives as well as their own.

The use of horticulture as therapy focuses on the peace and rhythm of life, as well as the beauty and mystery of the plant world. Horticultural Therapy (HT) is a rehabilitative practice that uses the cultivation of plants and gardening activities to improve the mental and physical health of its participants.

The Center for Horticultural Therapy Studies was designed to increase the number and quality of Horticultural Therapy programs. The first major

efforts are to educate individuals to become professionals in HT. A certificate program was designed to offer a comprehensive study of HT taught by our staff and horticultural therapists from across North America.

Nearly 70 students from across the country and outside of the U.S. attended the September class, "Introduction to Horticultural Therapy." Over the past few years, the class has increased in size and attracted students from as far away as Maine, Guam and British Columbia. Students come from all walks of life, including teachers, occupational therapists, college students, landscape architects, social workers, nurses, recreational therapists and business professionals. The common bond that brings them together is the innovative field of Horticultural Therapy.

The first class in the series, "Introduction to Horticultural Therapy," gives students an overview of the field of HT, as well as the opportunity to view several sites that use plants and plant-related activities in their programs, such as hospitals, wellness community centers and our own Sensory Garden.

"The course offered a broad, general introduction to HT, while at the same time it exposed me to practitioners and settings in the field," said David Walters, director of counseling programs, British Columbia. "I appreciated the diverse backgrounds, interests and characteristics of the participants. Overall it was an excellent and worthwhile experience and I'm looking forward to follow-up courses and peer contacts."

For more information on Denver Botanic Gardens' Horticultural Therapy program, contact Christine Kramer by calling 303-370-8190, or by e-mail at kramerc@botanicgardens.org.



Horticultural Therapy students learned about the healing power of plants this past September in the "Introduction to Horticultural Therapy" class.

Denver Botanic Gardens
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Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

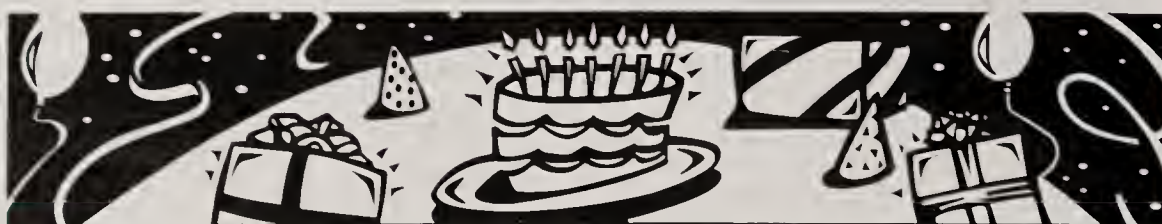
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CELEBRATE OUR 50TH BIRTHDAY WITH US!

It's been 50 years since Denver Botanic Gardens first began. To recognize what we were, what we've become and what the future holds, we'll be celebrating our birthday for the entire year of 2001. Details about special anniversary events and promotions will follow in the coming issues of this newsletter. Don't miss our celebration!



Green Thumb News

www.botanicgardens.org

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Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Nature Preserve are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

On the cover: Blossoms of Light Topiary, Marjorie Leggett